

day, October 13, 1998

95-year-old loop a record loop

LONDON (AP) — A 95-year-old woman named her way to the Guinness Book of Records after looping the loop 100 times in 10 days.

Pilgrims gather to Virgin Mary's last apparition

CONYERS, Ga. (AP) — Pilgrims gathered in Conyers, Ga., to mark the 100th anniversary of the Virgin Mary's last apparition.

Leonardo's last with Ermine on display

NEW YORK (AP) — Leonardo da Vinci's last work, a painting of an ermine, is on display in New York.

Commemorating the memory of John Denver

Aspen, Colo. (AP) — A commemorative ceremony was held in Aspen, Colo., to mark the death of John Denver.

Walsley awarded Peace Prize Frankfurt

FRANKFURT (AP) — Walsley was awarded the Peace Prize in Frankfurt.

## Hizbollah claims attack on Israeli patrol

MARIYOUN (AP) — Lebanese guerrillas detonated a roadside bomb on Tuesday as an Israeli patrol was passing in southern Lebanon, Lebanese security officials said. Hizbollah claimed responsibility for the blast and said it caused "several casualties." There was no immediate comment on the incident from Israel. The remote-controlled device went off at about 6 p.m. (1500 GMT) on a road near the Crusader-built Beaufort Castle, the security officials said. They spoke on customary condition of anonymity. The area is about six kilometres northwest of Marjayoun, the main town in Israel's self-styled "security zone" in southern Lebanon. Hizbollah has been fighting to oust Israel's 1,500 soldiers and their militia allies from the zone, which Israel set up in 1985 to try to shield its northern towns against guerrilla incursions.

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## Region cannot afford military confrontation, Regent warns

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has warned that the region cannot afford a new outbreak of military confrontation, recalling the tragic consequences of the Iran-Iraq war.

"We saw the tragic confrontation between Iraq and Iran, an Arab and a non-Arab Muslim country, and I think that we have to learn from the lessons of the immediate past," Prince Hassan said in an interview with the Turkish newspaper, Milliyet.

"We cannot afford to stand by and watch a new outbreak of violence," the Crown Prince said in the interview which will be published today.

Prince Hassan pointed to the many areas of tension in the region which include the crisis in Kosovo, the Turkish-Greek tension, the Syrian-Turkish tension, the Palestinian-Israeli tension and the tension in the Horn of Africa, saying that "clearly none of us in the region can afford a divergence" from the Palestinian issue which is the top priority.

"As far as we are concerned, this (the Palestinian) issue is at the top of the agenda," said the Crown Prince.

Responding to a question, Prince Hassan said that the tension between Syria and Turkey is more of a chronic crisis and

that it was not one event that has led to it.

"Of course, when I refer to the crisis in terms of chronic, (I mean) there is a chronic problem in the region (over) issues like water and trans-boundary arrangements," Prince Hassan said.

The Crown Prince urged the development of a concept for water sharing agreements between all riparian countries, Turkey, Iraq, Syria and for that matter, Lebanon, Jordan, the Palestinian territories, which are riparian to the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers, noting that "we have a situation where Syria is a lower riparian, we are lower riparian to Syria."

This, said the Crown Prince, can only be achieved by the reduction of the tension currently existing between Syria and Turkey.

Prince Hassan reiterated Jordan's appreciation of and support for the Egyptian demarche and the Iranian efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the Syrian-Turkish crisis.

The Crown Prince said in response to a question that Jordan has not been asked by Syria to be involved in efforts to defuse the tension, saying that "any contribution that we make has to be with the approval, if not the blessing, of the two countries."

Prince Hassan said in

response to the question that it would be wrong to turn the Turkish-Syrian tension into an Arab-Turkish crisis, saying "that we need Turkey as a responsible, stable and proactive country in this region."

The Crown Prince stressed that the symptoms of instability has to be addressed, saying that "if we are to work seriously to prevent the balkanisation of our Near East region, then we have to emphasise that issues of sovereignty should be taken seriously and directly between sovereign countries."

Prince Hassan said Jordan realises the great human and material losses that Turkey has suffered as a result of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) operations and bombings which have hit major civilian concentrations including Istanbul.

"Our position on terrorism is clear: We condemn terrorism and we condemn acts of violence of this nature," whose victims are Turkish Muslims as President (Suleiman) Demirel said, Prince Hassan added.

On the subject of the presence of PKK elements in Syria, Prince Hassan said this issue has to be resolved by a clear step in which the international community can recognise that these elements have left Syrian soil, expressing hope that the firm position taken by Turkey can also give a clear signal that

there is a scope for problem resolution if the issue of violence is addressed conclusively.

Prince Hassan said in response to a question that in terms of statesmanship, "we think that Turkish President Demirel knows very well the delicate equilibrium required for maintaining stability in this region. We watched with interest for many years Turkish support for the Palestinian question which is as far as we are concerned at the top of the agenda."

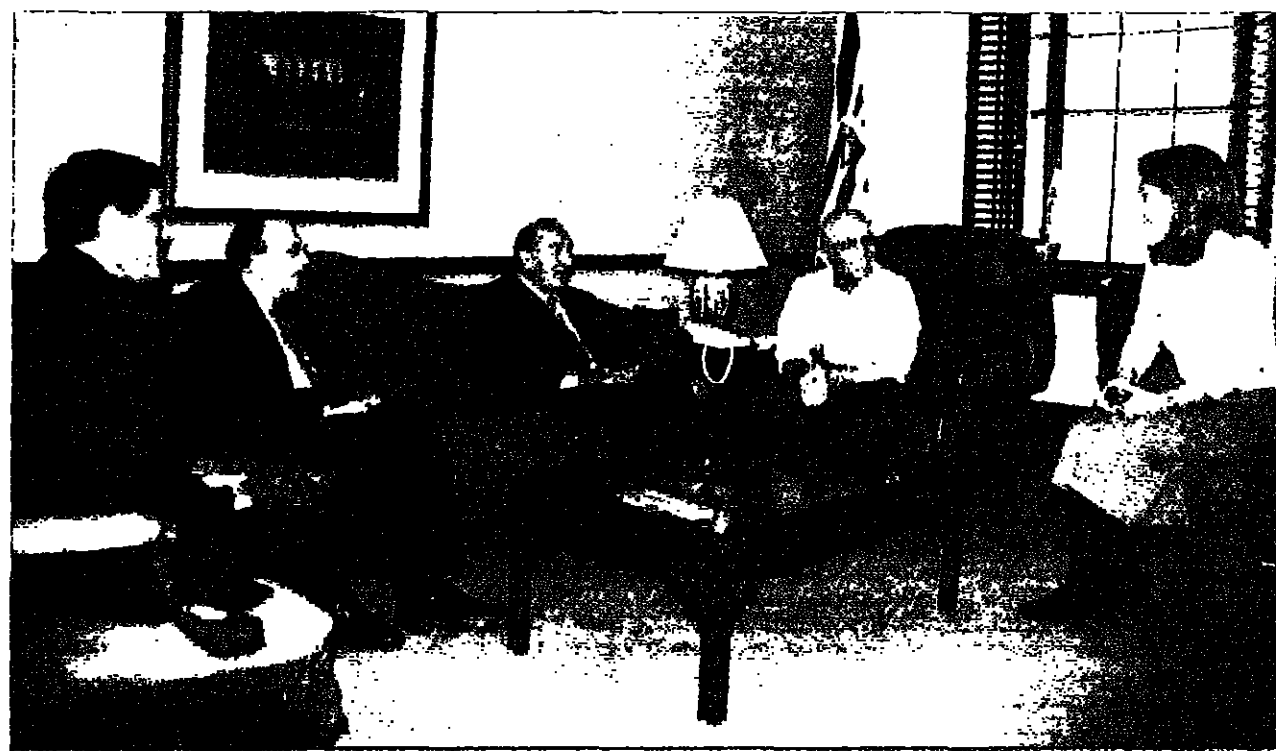
The Crown Prince said in response to a question that the region and Syria cannot afford to support secession of ethnic minorities.

He said in relation to the agreement reached between Masoud Barzani and Jalal Talabani in the United States which referred to a federative formula that such a formula in terms of the states of the United States is one thing because it is comprehensive, it is not ethnic, but to say to Turkey which recognises the Kurdish language and the Arabic language that it has to take a step further (is another).

Prince Hassan referred in that regard to the Iraqi position on its national integrity, which, he said, Jordan supports, stressing that "there has to be some kind of a contract agreed to between these different groupings within the statehood and sovereignty."

## Explosion in West Bank village, reports of casualties

AZAWIYA, West Bank (AP) — An explosion went off Tuesday in an open field in the West Bank, seriously injuring a young Palestinian man villagers said was harvesting olives. The cause of the explosion was not immediately known. The Israeli army said two Palestinians were injured in the blast it believes was caused by an "explosive device," one of the injured may have been playing with. The army did not specify what type of explosive it may have been. The blast occurred in the village of Azawiya, 25 kilometres southwest of the West Bank town of Nablus. Doctors at the local hospital in Nablus, a few kilometres away, said a young man, who was not immediately identified, was in critical condition from the blast and was not expected to live through the night.



THEIR MAJESTIES King Hussein and Queen Noor Tuesday receive Senate Speaker Zeid Rifai, House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Smour and President of the Higher Judicial Council Taher Hikmat at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota where the King has just completed the fourth of six sessions of chemotherapy. King Hussein assured his visitors of his good health and discussed with them issues of concern to the country and people. The Parliament speakers and Hikmat wished the King a speedy recovery and safe return home. King Hussein conveyed his greetings to the members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament as well as members of the Higher Judicial Council. His Royal Highness Prince Hamzeh attended the meeting.

## Commission suspends trading in Cement Factory shares

By Ghadeer Taher

AMMAN — The Securities Commission Tuesday decided to suspend trading of the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) shares at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) in preparation for selling a major stake of the government's share in the state-owned enterprise.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the decision will take effect as of today in line with the regulations of listing of company shares at the AFM, and at the request of the company's board of directors.

The JCFC, which recorded JD11.9 million net profit in 1997, is among the major firms the government plans to privatise and is seen as a test case for Jordan's programme to open up its economy to foreign investment.

The suspension is aimed at "easing the sale procedure with maximum transparency until the suitable decision is made regarding amendments to

the concession agreement and regarding the conclusion of the sale of the government's stake in the company," said the statement.

The government owns 49.3 per cent of the country's sole cement producer, which enjoys a monopoly until 2001.

The decision to suspend trading was taken at a meeting Tuesday of the Higher Committee for Privatisation, headed by Prime Minister Faysal Tarawneh.

The Egyptian Investment Bank EFG Hermes, which is acting as the financial advisor to the sale, made its recommendations and available options to the government.

The statement did not specify the recommendations of the advisor, although it specifically mentioned that company employees will have the opportunity to purchase part of the shares at a discount to the sale price.

On Tuesday, the company's shares traded at JD1.80.

The decision to suspend trading was

taken upon request from the Cement firm's Chairman of the Board of Directors Hamdi Tabaa, who has been a strong opponent of bringing in a strategic partner, and has favoured selling off the government's share to local or Arab investors.

Finance Minister Michel Marto, head of the Prime Ministry's Executive Privatisation Unit Adel Qudah, Jordan Investment Corporation Director Mohammed Batayneh, and Tabaa comprise the committee that will negotiate with potential bidders.

Informed sources said the government has received several offers through the financial advisor, none of which required control of the board of directors of the company, or veto power over its decisions — a major concern voiced by parliamentarians opposed to strategic partnerships.

The new committee will evaluate the offers and make its recommendations to the Cabinet, sources said.

## Israel says no deal with Palestinians after shooting Netanyahu visits today

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Tuesday that there was no chance of a peace accord with the Palestinians following the killing of an Israeli in an attack near Jerusalem.

"There will be no agreement unless the Palestinians fulfil all of their security commitments and, in light of this depressing picture, there is no chance of an agreement being signed at this time," a statement from the prime minister's office quoted him as saying.

However, Netanyahu did not cast doubt on his participation at a summit starting on Thursday in Washington with Palestinian

President Yasser Arafat and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Netanyahu condemned the attack in which an Orthodox Jew was shot dead and another seriously wounded while they were bathing nude as part of a religious cleansing ritual in a spring west of Jerusalem.

Israeli police said the attackers were two Palestinians who fled to the West Bank in the victims' car.

"This is a criminal act which proves that terrorism acts indiscriminately, and that its single goal is to murder Israelis and Jews — simply because they are Israelis and Jews," Netanyahu said.

## Netanyahu visits today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon will arrive in Amman early today to meet with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Prime Minister Faysal Tarawneh and senior officials, the Royal Court announced late Tuesday. Government sources said Palestinian President Yasser Arafat had asked Jordan to intervene on behalf of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) with the Israeli leadership ahead of the Wye Plantation Summit scheduled for Oct. 15 near the U.S. state of Maryland.

The U.S. summit will bring Arafat, Netanyahu and U.S. President Bill Clinton together to try to arrive at an agreement on Washington's proposals for a three-phased Israeli handover of a further 13 per cent of the West Bank. Arafat was in Amman Monday for talks with the Regent on coordinating stands and efforts between Jordan and the PNA to ensure the success of the summit.

## 'Jordan is model of religious co-existence'

By Francesca Ciriaci

AMMAN — Jordan is a country where different faiths peacefully co-exist and cooperate, and the Maronite church is one of nine Jordanian Christian denominations recognised by a 1958 Royal Decree, the government said yesterday.

Information Minister Nasser Judeh pointed out at a regular press briefing that religious freedom, upheld by the Constitution, is a reality in Jordan, a country where "both the call to prayer can be heard five times a day and church bells ring out every Sunday."

The minister's remarks came two days after three Muslim Brotherhood leaders said they were opposed to recent plans to build a Maronite parish in the capital.

"Anybody can express his/her views," Judeh said.

"But if three personalities voice their

own personal views, such a thing does not constitute 'a controversy,' he said referring to a headline in this newspaper on Tuesday.

Former Deputies Ibrahim Zeid Keilani, Mohammad Abu Faris, and Hammam Sa'id on Oct. 10 sent a letter to the mayor of Amman and all municipality council members urging them "not to surrender [to the Maronite community] the Islamic land with which you were entrusted."

Plans for the establishment of a Maronite parish were reported by the media last week, coinciding with a conference of heads of Catholic churches in the Middle East currently being held in Fuhais, west of Amman.

The call by the three Islamist leaders was not officially backed by either the Muslim Brotherhood or its political arm, the Islamic Action Front.

Dismissing an argument of the three for-

mer deputies that "there are no Maronites in Jordan," Judeh pointed out that "information suggests that there are more than 1,000 Maronites in Jordan."

The Maronite Patriarch of Antioch and all the East, Nasrallah Sfeir, told the Jordan Times in an interview earlier this week that there are around 150 Maronite families in the country. A Maronite priest in Amman, Father George Shihani, placed the size of the Maronite community at around 1,500.

Judeh also stressed the long history of the Jordanian Maronite community, "which ranked sixth in the list of nine churches recognised by a Royal Decree published in the Official Gazette on July 8, 1958."

Judeh stressed that "there is no difference between Jordanians in rights and duties. Under the Hashemite rule, this country has led and is leading inter-faith dialogue to bring the various views closer," he concluded.

By Francesca Ciriaci

AMMAN — Parliament could convene briefly in mid-November in accordance with the Constitution, which calls for such a meeting in case the King remains outside the country for more than four months, officials said on Tuesday.

One official, however, pointed out that if such a meeting is warranted, it will be a mere formality, since the spirit of the constitutional article in question, Article 28, is meant to address a hypothetical situation in which the reasons for the Monarch's absence were not known.

"The meeting will be just a formality as His Majesty King Hussein is currently abroad to receive medical treatment and the reason for his absence is known," the official told the Jordan Times yesterday.

Article 28 (i) of the Constitution reads: "If the King's absence extends for more than four months and the National Assembly is not in session, the assembly shall be summoned immediately to consider the matter."

If held, the meeting is only expected to last for a few hours and will reflect the keenness of all Jordanian institutions to fully implement the spirit and the letter of the Constitution.

However, Information Minister Nasser Judeh on Tuesday stressed that it was still too early to talk about the parliamentary meeting.

"We will cross the bridge when we reach it," Judeh said.

In the case of such a meeting, Parliament would issue a statement wishing His Majesty a speedy recovery and reiterating the people's wish to welcome the King back home safe and sound.

King Hussein, who left for the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, on July 14, has completed the fourth of six rounds of chemotherapy to treat lymphatic cancer.

By Francesca Ciriaci

Doctors as well as officials have said the King is responding perfectly well to the treatment, which is administered in four-day cycles every three weeks.

Al Dustour daily quoted Jordan's Ambassador to the U.S. Marwan Muasher on Tuesday as saying that the King was expected to return to Amman "in the last week of November after completing the sixth stage of treatment."

"All indications so far are very encouraging," Muasher said, adding that the King is currently convalescing before starting the fifth round of chemotherapy and is in constant touch with developments in Jordan.

By Francesca Ciriaci

Fastlink and the government have also included discussions on a possible reduction in interconnect fees, and an increase in frequency allocations, Bosworth said.

Also, Fastlink, which has a 20 per cent revenue sharing agreement with the government, is insisting that the next licensee be subjected to the same conditions.

As part of a settlement, negotiations between

## Fastlink expects out of court settlement with government

By Alia A. Toukan and Ghadeer Taher

AMMAN — Fastlink is optimistic it will reach an out of court settlement with the Ministry of Telecommunications ahead of an expected court ruling on the mobile company's lawsuit against the government over an alleged breach of contract.

Fastlink Chief Execu-

tive Officer David Bosworth said recent talks held with the new government of Prime Minister Faysal Tarawneh were "very encouraging."

"There is a true intent by the Ministry of Telecommunications to resolve the issue before the ruling on the lawsuit," Bosworth told the Jordan Times. The case, filed on December 15, is now before the High Court of

Justice and the court is expected to issue its verdict on October 28.

The government, however, citing that negotiations with the company were still under way, declined to comment.

But according to industry sources, Jordan wants to put the dispute with Fastlink, and its American partner, telecommunications giant Motorola, behind it as it is keen to

fend off accusations that it is not serious about its privatisation programme, and to regain credibility with international investors.

Fastlink and the previous government of former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali had been locked in negotiations since the lawsuit was filed.

Fastlink, which currently has over 60,000 sub-

scribers, had protested against both the timing and the manner in which the government granted the JTC a mobile phone network licence.

The company alleges the government violated the agreement with the firm when it made a decision last October to grant a second mobile service licence to the JTC before the end of Fastlink's November 1, 1998 exclu-

sivity period, and without issuing a tender.

But according to officials, the government plans to issue the second GSM licence after Nov. 1, which should resolve a major point of contention.

Bosworth, however, said that none of the conditions set by Fastlink have yet been met by the government. But he said that "as long as the integrity of the licence is

respected" he is sure the dispute will be resolved.

Fastlink insists on retaining certain advantages over the next mobile service provider because of its heavy investment in setting up the company.

But the government says that Fastlink has already gained a head start with its four-year exclusivity period.

As part of a settlement, negotiations between

Fastlink and the government have also included discussions on a possible reduction in interconnect fees, and an increase in frequency allocations, Bosworth said.

Also, Fastlink, which has a 20 per cent revenue sharing agreement with the government, is insisting that the next licensee be subjected to the same conditions.







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'Rebels cut four people's throats in Algeria'

ALGERIA (AP) — Rebels cut the throats of four people in western Algeria, according to a report from the United Nations. The rebels, who are fighting against the government, said they had killed the four people because they were suspected of being collaborators. The report came from a UN spokesman who said that the rebels had been active in the area for several days. He said that the rebels had been seen in the area of the town of Tlemcen, which is about 100 miles from Algiers. The spokesman said that the rebels had been seen in the area of the town of Tlemcen, which is about 100 miles from Algiers. The spokesman said that the rebels had been seen in the area of the town of Tlemcen, which is about 100 miles from Algiers.

# Home News

## Court ratifies death sentences against two Egyptian women

By Rana Hussein

AMMAN — The Court of Cassation has ratified death sentences against two Egyptian women who were convicted in May of robbing and murdering a 73-year-old woman in Shmeisani last year, according to judicial sources.

Abeer Ibrahim, 24, and her 19-year-old sister Rasha were sentenced to death by the Criminal Court on May 26 after they were found guilty of the July 8, 1997 murder of Fakhrieh Kurdi.

According to court documents, Abeer, who worked as a domestic helper for Kurdi, plotted to steal her employers' money and jewellery.

On the morning of the incident, the court maintained, the two drugged Kurdi, who lived alone in her apartment, and dragged her to her room.

"The two then placed a wet towel over the

woman's mouth and nose until she died, then stole her jewellery and some goods," it added.

The court said the two women then locked the door and fled, sold the jewellery and were about to leave the country when they were apprehended by police at the Aqaba port.

Kurdi's body was discovered by her two daughters when they returned home from work at around 3:00 p.m. on the day of the murder.

The two women, who reportedly confessed to police and the criminal prosecutor, pleaded not guilty during their trial.

Five women have been executed in the Kingdom in the past five years, including three in 1997 for committing premeditated murders. Eleven people were executed in Jordan last year.

Two people have been put to death this year after being convicted of committing premeditated murders.



HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, talks to members of the Royal Engineering Corps during his visit to the unit yesterday (Jordan Armed Forces photo)

## Regent stresses need to enhance Armed Forces' role in development

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday underlined the need to enhance the developmental role of the Armed Forces and to work in coordination with other sectors in the management of national resources.

Addressing units of the Royal Engineering Corps during a visit, the Crown Prince said the participation of the Armed Forces in development complements its major task in safeguarding the nation. The Regent pledged continued work to provide the best for the Armed Forces.

The Crown Prince noted the positive achievements of the partnership between the Armed Forces and other sectors, saying that it helps optimise the

utilisation of national resources and maximise its contribution to the overall national development.

The Regent praised the Royal Engineering Corps' contribution to infrastructure projects, including construction of dams and roads and water harvesting projects.

Referring to an agreement signed between the Armed Forces and the Jordan Valley Authority, the Regent said the deal is a step in the right direction.

The Crown Prince called for formulating a national plan of action to deal with the potential danger of chemical weapons, noting that their consequences would not only be restricted to military personnel but also civilians.

He called on all concerned parties, including doctors, nurses and citizens, to participate in drawing up a pragmatic and scientific programme for dealing with such potential dangers.

The Crown Prince called for utilising international support and aid made available to Jordan as a result of signing international agreements, including the international agreement banning the use of chemical weapons, to help provide for Jordan's defence needs.

The Regent, who was accompanied by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Muna'i Kabaneh, opened several engineering facilities and inspected the engineering museum and laboratories.

## Jordanian, American firms to sign \$120m deal on bromine complex

Terms 'very favourable' to Jordan

By Amy Henderson

AMMAN — The Jordan Dead Sea Industry Company, Ltd. (JODICO) tomorrow will sign a \$120 million deal with an American firm for a bromine production complex at the Dead Sea.

"We are finally signing this deal and we feel the terms are very favourable," said Munther Saudi, JODICO general manager.

The deal — awaited since 1992 — is a 50-50 revenue sharing venture between JODICO and the U.S. firm Albermarle, which will contribute most of the technology. Saudi said that construction on the plant will start in the latter half of 1999 and that production is scheduled to begin in 2002.

The plant is expected to produce annually 50,000 tonnes of bromine, 35,000 tonnes of calcium bromide and 50,000 tonnes of tetra-bromobisphenol, components in pharmaceuticals, photographic chemicals, fire retardants, fumigants, insecticides and herbicides. The plant is expected to employ 120 people, and marketers will target Euro-

pean and Asian markets.

Negotiations on a deal to produce bromine and bromine derivatives with an international partner have been up and down since 1992, when the Arab Potash Company began negotiations with another American firm that eventually collapsed in 1994. The unexpected announcement earlier this year that JODICO — an APC subsidiary established in 1996 — would sign with Albermarle signalled the collapse of another deal that had been negotiated for three years with the Israeli Dead Sea Bromine Group.

There was speculation that the deal with the Israelis was killed for political reasons, but an informed source told the Jordan Times that the terms offered by Israel were severely unfavourable to Jordan.

According to the source, the Israeli firm sought a 75-25 revenue sharing arrangement that would decrease over the course of five to six years. The source said that according to the production schedule, the best of the

resource would be exhausted by the time the revenue-sharing scheme evened out. Jordan would also assume the cost of technology.

The terms were eventually refused by the government, which owns a 55.4 per cent stake in the APC.

The JODICO joint venture is the first in a string of high-profile activities in the APC's efforts to diversify production at the Dead Sea, where the exploitation of the sea's natural resources traditionally has been restricted to raw potash.

Also under the APC's wing are the Jordan Salt Company, which produces industrial and table salt, and Al Numeira, which extracts mud and salt from the Dead Sea for use in the cosmetics industry.

According to Saudi, the Jordan Magnesia Company, Ltd., a JODICO project, anticipates offers from four international companies on Thursday for the construction of a magnesium plant. Magnesium increasingly is used in the manufacture of cars because of its durability and light weight, which reduces fuel consumption.

## Nearly 75,000 foreign labourers now hold work permits — Qadi

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — More than 74,800 foreign workers have obtained work permits in the country, most of them following the government's recent campaign to organise the labour market, Labour Minister Mohammad Farhan announced Tuesday.

The government has said that almost one million foreign workers are living and working in Jordan and that the bulk do not have work permits. Almost half of those without permits are Egyptians, according to the government.

Farhan, speaking at a government press briefing, said the ministry and its agencies are granting from 1,000 to 1,300 permits a day.

He said foreign workers would not be exempted from fines imposed for violating the Labour Law.

The minister said it was "difficult" to give an exact figure on the number of unemployed Jordanians, but said the Department of Statistics has estimated the rate at 14.4 per cent. An independent survey put the rate at nearly 27 per cent.

"Our target is to determine how many are unemployed in order to reach an accurate figure and define the fields of work to create jobs for them," the minister told reporters.

"Organising the labour market does not simply mean granting foreign workers permits. The permits are the first step," Farhan said.

The minister denied local media reports that it was planning to establish "housing units" for foreign workers, stressing that the aim was not to put them in ghettos but to absorb them in the society.

Last week, Interior Minister Nayef Qadi said government records indicate that 426,000 Egyptians, 130,000 Syrians, 110,000 Iraqis and 2,312 Sudanese are working in the country.

Qadi added that 1,689 Lebanese, 10,241 Palestinians and more than 7,000 Asian nationals have entered the country and still live here.

Commenting on the country's labour market campaign, Farhan said the ministry named 15 professions as "off-limits" to foreign

workers.

The list includes jobs in medical, engineering, administrative, accounting, secretarial, typing, switch board operating, store keeping, sales, hair dressing, education, decorating and auto-mechanic fields as well as electricians, fuel station attendants, drivers and guards.

He said the ministry does not support setting a minimum wage for Jordanian labour at this stage, "because such a matter will backfire at this moment."

"Fixing a minimum wage should not come from high level authorities," he said. "It should stem from the need of the labour market."

"I have no idea of how many foreign workers we have in Jordan. I do not know the needs of Jordanian labourers who are unemployed and their abilities to work," the minister said.

"If we resort to setting a minimum wage amid lack of information, I think it will be unsteady decision. We can fix it if we know for sure the demands of our economic system," Farhan said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Germany loans \$26m for water projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two agreements were signed yesterday under which Germany will provide Jordan with \$26 million in soft loans to fund wastewater projects in Khirbat Samra and Irbid. According to the first agreement, Germany will provide \$18.2 million to the Ministry of Planning in order to finalise a project to transfer wastewater from Amman to Khirbat Samra, said a ministry statement. Under the second agreement, the German Development Bank will loan \$7.8 million to finalise the first stage of Irbid's wastewater network. Germany has already provided Jordan with \$82.3 million in soft loans this year to fund the two projects.

### Rabieh murder case details to attorney

AMMAN (J.T.) — The prosecutor general of the State Security Court, Brigadier Mamoun Khasawneh, Tuesday sent the public attorney of the court instructions to prepare a charge sheet and a list of witnesses in the Rabieh and Shmeisani cases. Five suspects accused of murdering 11 persons in January and April of this year are involved in the two cases.

### Agreement on aid to refugees

AMMAN (J.T.) — The American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) today will sign an agreement with the Palestinian Affairs Department as a preliminary to offering services in Jordan. ANERA, which provides assistance to Palestinians in the West Bank and the other Palestinian territories, has decided to add Jordan to its services. ANERA is a non-profit and non-governmental organisation.

### Medical day to be held in refugee camp

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Health Education Society and the Jordanian National Forum for Women are organising a free medical day on Friday for the residents of the Talebia refugee camp. A group of physicians have volunteered to conduct the medical examinations. The organisers have arranged similar services in poor districts around the country. At the end of each campaign, the medical teams involved prepare a study of the health situation in each area and send a report with their recommendations to the concerned health authorities.

### Khreisha meets with Sudanese envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Mijhem Khreisha on Tuesday conferred with Sudanese Ambassador to Jordan Jahaiddin Amin about Jordanian investments in Sudan and bilateral agricultural cooperation. The two sides discussed the conclusion of a protocol on technical cooperation concerning veterinary drugs, animal health and importing live animals from Sudan.

## Gas cylinder peddlers to have 'musical' calling card

By Munther Murjan

AMMAN — The days of persistent honking by vehicles distributing domestic gas cylinders are drawing to an close, thanks to a government decision asking distributors to play symphony music when roaming streets in search of potential clients.

The decision, taken jointly in July by the minister of energy and mineral resources and members of the Jordanian Union of Petrol Stations Owners and Gas Distributors, will be fully enforced by January 1, according to Hatem Arrabi, head of the union.

"We have received many complaints, directly and via the media, from citizens complaining of the annoying honking of cars distributing gas," Arrabi told the Jordan Times.

"We asked the government six years ago to replace the honking with musical melodies similar to the tunes played by ice cream trucks, and we finally received

approval in July 1998."

Unlike many Western capitals that supply gas to residents via domestic pipelines, Jordanians rely on gas cylinders from licensed gas distributors roaming streets, often in ageing pickups.

The persistent honking, often punctuating the quiet of the early hours of the day, has for long upset most Jordanians, especially those trying to relax over the weekend.

"Nearly 50 per cent of the 230 agencies distributing gas cylinders have responded to these new regulations so far," Arrabi said.

Most of those following the guidelines are located in western Amman, while others include agencies covering some popular areas in eastern and southern Amman such as Wihdat and Qweismeh.

"Hopefully, the rest will begin adhering to the new regulations by Jan. 1, 1999," he added.

Arrabi said the decision was part of new regulations that will be enforced by early next

year to overhaul the fleet of vehicles distributing gas cylinders and to raise the efficiency of distribution.

The regulations stipulated in the new code will include "a fixed coloured label on the side of delivery vehicles with information on licensing, company names and telephone numbers, similar to the information on the doors of taxis," Arrabi said.

"Also, all gas delivery vehicles will be painted a special blue colour and all personnel will be issued ID cards to be worn on workers' shirts while on duty."

The new regulations did not meet any resistance from the union members, but the colour issue did draw some resentment.

"If there are around 1,300 identical blue vehicles, you will not be able to file a complaint because the colour will make it hard to tell the cars apart if you forget the name of the agency or a worker's name," Arrabi said. He also said owners would probably lose money upon reselling the vehicle due to the colour.

## what's going on

### FILM

\* "Goya" (in English with commentary by Dr. Khalid Khreis) at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m. (Another film entitled "Niebla" (in Spanish) will also be screened on Thursday Oct. 15 at 5:00 p.m.).  
\* Children's film "Transformers and Headmasters" at the British Council, Jabal Amman at 5:00 p.m.  
\* German film "Für immer und immer" (Always and Forever) at Goethe-Institute, Jabal Amman at 7:00 p.m.

### PLAYS

\* "The Road to Safety" (in Arabic) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m. (Daily until Oct. 18).  
\* "Al Da'ira" (in Arabic) by Hayat Huwayk Amieh at Odeon near the Roman Theatre, downtown Amman on Thursday Oct. 15 at 7:00 p.m. (Tel. 593-0682).

### LECTURE

\* "What is Psychiatry?" (in Arabic) by Dr. Mohammad Kan'an, Dr. Izz Al-Din Jamal, Dr. Suleiman Bani Sa'id at the City Hall, Ras Al 'Ain on Wednesday Oct. 14 at 6:00 p.m.

### THE PALESTINIAN HERITAGE WEEK

\* Song festival at the Professional Associations Complex (6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.) — (Another festival will also be held on Thurs-

day).

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Display of autumn collection at The Jordan Design and Trade Centre, off Wadi Sagra St. until Oct. 31 (Tel. 5699141/2).  
\* Exhibition of works by Palestinian artist Kamal Boullata entitled "Homage to Jerusalem," an exhibition of paintings by late Palestinian artist Zulfar Al Sa'di, an exhibition by Palestinian-American photographer Sa'id Nuseibah entitled "The Farthest Mosque" at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until Nov. 12. (Tel. 4643251/2).  
\* Goya's Caprichos paintings at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman (Tel. 4610858), until Oct. 23.  
\* Children's photo exhibition entitled "Al Hussein in the Eyes of Children" at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Oct. 15.  
\* Exhibition on "Protection of Archaeological Heritage," a book exhibition, and children's art exhibition at the City Hall, Ras Al 'Ain, until Oct. 14.  
\* "International Motor Show 99" at the Amman International Motor Show, Airport Road (Tel. 5714211), until Oct. 17.  
\* "Calligraphy on Crafts" at the Jordan Craft Centre (Al Aydi), Jabal Amman (Tel. 4644555), October 18-31.  
\* Works by Laila Jamal at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, until Oct. 26.  
\* Art of Arab calligraphy by Nassar Mansour at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts (Tel. 4630128), until Oct. 23.

## Efforts continue to win release of over 700 Jordanians held in Syria — minister

Relatives plan sit-ins to press for prisoners release

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — Information Minister Nasser Judeh on Tuesday said efforts are being exerted to win the release of more than 700 Jordanian prisoners and detainees from Syrian jails.

Meanwhile, the families of these detainees will hold a sit-in near Parliament today to demand the release of their relatives, many of whom have been jailed since the early 1970s.

Speaking at a press conference, Judeh said the government does not have an exact figure on the number of Jordanian detainees and prisoners in Syria but the figure exceeds 700.

"Efforts are continuing to secure their release," the minister said without further elaboration.

A spokesman for the families of the prisoners, Emad Sharqawi, told the Jordan

Times that a sit-in will be held today near Parliament to deliver a message to Lower House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour.

He said the campaign will include another sit-in near the Prime Ministry at a later stage, and if no success is achieved, a third will be carried out near the Syrian embassy.

Sharqawi noted that his committee's information indicates that the number of Jordanian detainees and prisoners in Syria ranges from 700 to 1,000.

"Many prisoners started an open hunger strike recently, and no information is available on their health conditions," Sharqawi, a lawyer, said.

He also said an equal number of Jordanians have gone missing in Syria since 1970.

Sharqawi said some of the prisoners are affiliated to Palestinian organisations and the Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood movement, while oth-

ers were members of the National Command of the Baath Party in Syria, who were detained following the coup that brought President Hafez Assad to power in 1971.

He said he met with Syrian Charge d'Affaires in Amman Waheeb Jabr, who promised to help them visit or have their relatives released.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted a spokesperson of the London-based Amnesty International as saying that relatives of Jordanian prisoners in Syria have the right to know the fate of their kin and their whereabouts.

The Amnesty official, whose name was not given, said his group will support any effort by the families of these prisoners to seek their release.

The spokesperson noted that Amnesty last year launched efforts to win the release of Jordanian, Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese prisoners in Syria, "most of [whom] have

been jailed without trial."

The source added that memos were submitted to the Syrian government in the past four years, which included names of more than 1,000 prisoners, to locate their whereabouts.

Statements by the Jordanian and Palestinian Committee to Defend the Prisoners in Syria said many of these detainees were jailed without trial and are subjected to torture.

Statements by the two groups have said many of the prisoners, mostly in the Palmyra and Mazeh jails near Damascus, are in poor health and suffering from disease.

The families accused the Syrian government of detaining their kin "just for political reasons," which they said are unjustified and violate human rights.

The government's initiative to win the release of the prisoners came amid a strain in relations between Amman and

Damascus following repeated statements by Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlass, which prompted Amman to respond.

Judeh denied that a "war of words" was under way between the two countries, adding that Amman was astonished to hear such a statement from Tlass.

"I do not think that there is a war of words. The government made a statement on this subject and the statement was very balanced," he said, referring to Saturday's statement criticising the Syrian minister.

"We were mystified by these statements which came from a particular Syrian official. It is not a war of words. We just do not understand it and we responded to it," he said.

"As I said before, it is something of concern to us and it should not have happened between the two neighbouring countries," the minister said.



## SPD names east German to head new parliament

BONN (AFP) — Germany's future governing Social Democrats (SPD) Tuesday named the east German Wolfgang Thierse as their choice for speaker of the new parliament that is to begin sitting later this month.

Thierse, 54, would be the first east German to preside over the lower house of parliament, the Bundestag. He was chosen against the candidacy of a woman, Christel Hanewinkel, but the SPD parliamentary faction leadership chose Anke Fuchs, 61, to be its nominee for vice-speaker.

The SPD was the strongest party to emerge from legislative elections Sept. 27 that defeated the conservative government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The new Bundestag is to meet Oct. 26 and on Oct. 27 to elect SPD chancellor candidate Gerhard Schröder as the new government leader.

Meanwhile, the outgoing SPD parliamentary faction leader Rudolf Scharping said Tuesday that the group's leadership would announce Thursday its choice for the new parliamentary whip, and that this would be confirmed by the whole group next Tuesday.

The choice had originally been scheduled for this Tuesday but was postponed because of power struggles within the party, SPD sources said.

The SPD is fighting to remain on-track to forming a ruling coalition despite its internal squabbling.

Schröder had said Monday that Scharping would be the new defence minister and that Party President Oskar Lafontaine would be finance minister.

In announcing the choice of Scharping at defence, Schröder clearly tried to still squabbling, as Scharping had said he wanted to stay on as leader of the SPD parliamentary group, a more independent political power base.

Peter Struck, a close aide to Scharping in parliament, has been mooted to take over his job.

Dispute over the parliamentary post, and jockeying by Lafontaine to make the finance job into a super-ministry, show that the Schröder-Lafontaine tandem that campaigned successfully to topple conservative Chancellor Helmut Kohl in legislative elections Sept. 27 may turn again to rivalry, observers said.

The Bonn newspaper General Anzeiger commented in an editorial Tuesday: "What a false start. Within a few days the month-long harmony in the party leadership, done for the campaign and effective, is revealed to be what it was from the start, theatre and show."

The Frankfurter Allgemeine newspaper said

that at least Scharping had apparently stopped Lafontaine from getting for himself or controlling the parliamentary post.

Lafontaine will have a powerful post in the finance ministry, which will include control over the economic aspects of European policy, the Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper reported Tuesday citing SPD sources.

The ministry will also have the macro-economic functions of analysis and prediction which have previously been the domain of the economics ministry, the daily said, citing SPD documents.

These changes will make the German finance ministry about the same in extent as the French and British finance ministries, and signal the weight Lafontaine will wield in the new German administration.

Meanwhile, the ecologist and pacifist Greens, the party with which the SPD is negotiating a coalition, were due Tuesday to convene their parliamentary group to decide their position on a NATO intervention against Serbia over Kosovo.

The Bundestag has been convened for a special meeting Friday on the question.



Social Democratic Chancellor-elect Gerhard Schröder (right) gestures as he talks to designated Defence Minister Rudolf Scharping (left) as designated Finance Minister Oskar Lafontaine looks on prior to a meeting of the party's parliamentary group in Bonn. The party's parliamentary manager Peter Struck will succeed Scharping as parliamentary floor leader (Reuters photo)

## OSCE faces unprecedented mission in Kosovo

VIENNA (AFP) — The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) faces a task of unprecedented scale in mounting a 2,000-strong "verification mission" agreed by Belgrade to defuse the Kosovo crisis.

The mission, agreed after marathon talks between U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke and President Slobodan Milosevic, will constitute "a change of gear" for the pan-European security body, whose biggest mission to date involved fewer than 300 observers, officials said.

It will also mark the OSCE's return to Yugoslavia six years after Belgrade was suspended as a member of the Vienna-based body over its implication in the Bosnian war.

"The OSCE will enter new territory and totally change gear," said a Western diplomat familiar with the organisation's activities.

Holbrooke himself stressed the scale of the mission when he announced the deal struck with Milosevic at a Belgrade press conference Tuesday. The ground verification force will be complemented by an airborne monitoring operation.

The OSCE's current biggest missions are in

Croatia and Bosnia, where it has 280 and 240 staff respectively, the Western diplomat noted. "And the Kosovo figure does not take into account technical and logistical staff," he added.

Officially the OSCE declined to comment immediately on the logistics of the operation. "We will have more information later in the afternoon," said OSCE spokesman Mans Nyberg.

"I can't tell you anything more than has been reported ... we need to sort out this information before we can give a coherent structure to the thing," he added.

The diplomat said that the first step, once the accord had been formally signed, would be to the OSCE's 55-member states for contributions to the verification mission.

"As far as I understand, this will be done with some urgency," he said.

The OSCE's founding charter states that it is the "primary instrument in its region for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in Europe."

The Kosovo mission will mark its first operation in Yugoslavia since 1992, when Belgrade was suspended from the OSCE for

violating its charter by backing Bosnian Serbs in the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Federal Yugoslav Republic (FRY) struck back the following year by refusing to extend the mandates of three OSCE missions on its territory: in Kosovo, as well as in the southern Muslim-majority Sandzak region and the Vojvodina region in northern Serbia inhabited by ethnic Hungarians.

Relations between Belgrade and the pan-European security body have been at best difficult ever since.

For example ex-Spanish Premier Felipe Gonzalez, appointed by the OSCE in March to mediate on the Kosovo crisis, has been blocked from travelling to the region despite having visited Belgrade in 1996 and 1997.

Yugoslav authorities have repeatedly insisted that he can only visit if his trip concerns "normalising relations" — that is, readmitting Belgrade to the OSCE.

The OSCE's current chairman, Polish Foreign Minister Bronislaw Geremek, rejected an invitation by Belgrade last week to send a mission "to objectively view the situation," saying it was part of a "propaganda game."

## Some Serbs praise peace deal, others feel betrayed

BELGRADE (R) — Some Serbs praised a deal announced Tuesday to end conflict in Kosovo, saying Yugoslavia had no choice, but others denounced Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic for selling out his country.

"If we were a country with political, economic and military might and if we could defeat the world, then I would be the first one to take the gun and fight for my country," said Sinisa Bencun, an economist.

"But Yugoslavia is not strong enough. What can we do with a rifle against Tomahawks (cruise missiles)? That is why I say: peace at any price," Bencun, 28, told Reuters while he bought tickets for a cinema at a Belgrade mall.

Bojac, also 28 and a maintenance worker in the mall, said: "We do not need any foreign observers nor planes in our sky."

"I do not understand his (Milosevic's) decision. It is against the will of his people. Practically, he has betrayed all of us who said no to any foreign interference," Bojac

said. Milosevic, in a nationally televised speech, said the agreement with the West, brokered after intensive talks with U.S. Balkan envoy Richard Holbrooke, "removed the danger of military intervention against our country."

The deal calls for an international team on the ground in Kosovo, where Serbs have cracked down on an ethnic Albanian revolt for independence, to verify compliance with a U.N. demand for a Serbian military withdrawal. NATO planes would be used for verification purposes from the sky.

Zlatko Letonja, a retired veterinarian, said he had not heard about the details of the agreement but said he could not believe Milosevic accepted it.

"Despite so many victims and promises that he would not allow any foreign interference, Milosevic accepts such a deal?" Letonja said.

"He has, as always, betrayed his own people," he said. Milan Krtolica, manager of a clothes shop and an avowed Serbian

nationalist, said Milosevic should not have bowed to the West's demands.

"This is a shameful deal and concession — just like the Dayton peace agreement," he said, referring to the deal, also brokered by Holbrooke, to end the Bosnian war.

"Milosevic has once again sold his people for his own interests just like he did with Krajina Serbs (from Croatia) and Serbs in Bosnia," Krtolica said.

Bobana, 26, a doctor, said: "Milosevic has made many mistakes over the past 10 years and I do not like him. But I live near the airport, and I would rather destroy myself than to be bombed."

Tanja, salesperson at a sportsware shop, said: "I do not believe this will make Albanians happy. I think it will only postpone the war."

The insurgent Kosovo Liberation Army, which fought Serbian forces in the province, rejected the Kosovo agreement saying it was unacceptable because it did not provide for the southern Serbian province's independence.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Newly elected Bosnian leaders inaugurated

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — The three members of Bosnia-Herzegovina's joint national presidency were sworn in Tuesday, promising to respect the 1995 agreement which ended the Bosnian war. The three — representing the Muslim, Serb and Croat communities — were elected in the Sept. 12-13 nationwide balloting. "What we have just witnessed together ... is the birth of a new chapter in the story of this young country," said Jacques Klein, the American deputy to the Bosnia's top international mediator, Carlos Westendorp. The Bosnian Serb and Croat members, Zivko Radisic and Ante Jelavic, are serving for the first time in the joint presidency. The Muslim member, Alija Izetbegovic, was reelected. Radisic, who defeated the Serb hard-line candidate Momcilo Krajisnik, will serve as chairman for the first eight months of the four-year mandate. Local and Western officials believe Radisic's membership will signal a new era of cooperation. Krajisnik was considered one of the biggest obstacles to Serb cooperation in implementing the 1995 peace accords. For the first time since the beginning of the war in 1992, the inaugural ceremony took place in the main Bosnian government building, which was heavily damaged during the war but reconstructed recently. Meetings of the previous joint presidency were held in Sarajevo's National Museum at Krajisnik's insistence.

### French student protesters back on streets

PARIS (AFP) — Tens of thousands of angry secondary school students walked out of class Tuesday to protest in cities across France for the second day running, demanding more teachers and better schooling. "We need reforms urgently," said Alice Martin of the independent students' association FIDL. "We have had nothing but promises that have never been kept." Students were calling a major countrywide day of action Thursday with the focus, a march in Paris, Martin told Europe 1 radio. In Bordeaux, 15,000 pupils left school to demonstrate, more than the previous day when 10,000 students massed in the city protesting against poor learning conditions. Some 5,000 joined a similar protest in Toulouse, 4,000 in southeastern Lyon, and 1,000 marched in cities such as Paris, Metz, Mulhouse, Niort, Montauban and Clermont-Ferrand. The wave of student protest has been building for the past two weeks on the heels of the beginning of the school year, with youngsters complaining of returning to school to find overcrowded classrooms, a shortage of teachers and poor conditions. Education Minister Claude Allègre, moving to quell the growing protests, Monday pledged to hire new teachers to plug gaps but said: "I'm not a magician. I can't provide everything at once."

### S. Lanka says 11 rebels, soldier killed in clash

COLOMBO (R) — Government troops repulsed a Tamil Tiger rebel attack on an army detachment in northeastern Sri Lanka, killing at least 11 guerrillas but losing one soldier, the defence ministry said Tuesday. It said in a statement that in a subsequent search the bodies of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels were recovered by troops along with several weapons after the attack at Sirmangalapuram village in Trincomalee district Monday. "One soldier was wounded due to the incident and evacuated to hospital where he succumbed to his injuries," the statement said. The latest clash followed fierce fighting in the north last month in which hundreds of soldiers and rebels were killed. Government troops are in the midst of a 17-month-old campaign to wrest control of a key northern highway from the rebels. The LTTE rebels have been fighting for a separate homeland in Sri Lanka's north and east since 1983, accusing the Sinhalese majority of oppressing the Tamil minority.

### Japan's crime rate hits record high in 1997

TOKYO (AFP) — The number of reported crimes in Japan hit a post-war record of 2.52 million in 1997, up 53,000 from the previous year, with an upsurge in offences committed by women and juveniles, the government said Tuesday. The number of women arrested in criminal cases rose 16 per cent from the previous year to some 70,400, according to a white paper released by the justice ministry. It did not provide a breakdown by offence. They accounted for 22.4 per cent of all the arrests made in 1997, a record high ratio since World War II, the report said. The number of juveniles, or those aged under 20, who were arrested in 1997, totalled some 215,600, up 9.8 per cent from 1996. It represented the second year-on-year rise. The report was accompanied by a survey which showed more than 40 per cent of the juveniles detained for committing serious crimes such as murder or attempted murder, had been bullied by someone else. The survey showed some alienated minors could take to violent crimes such as murder, the Kyodo news agency said citing specialists. Among the juveniles the number of those who were arrested for murder fell 22.7 per cent to 75. But the number of those arrested for robberies jumped 60 per cent to 1,701 while 409 others were held for rape up 80.2 per cent. Following an upturn in juvenile crimes in 1996 after a 12-year downturn, the justice ministry has been preparing a bill to lower the age limit for criminal punishment for juveniles. Under the present law, those under 16 years of age are not considered capable of forming the necessary criminal intent and their offences are dealt with by special family courts. Juveniles 16 years or older who commit an offence can be tried in a criminal court. But pressure to abolish lenient treatment of juvenile offenders has mounted since early last year after a 14-year-old boy was arrested for killing two children in Kobe, western Japan, beheading one of the victims.

### Infant's corpse hidden in closet by mother

MIAMI (AP) — A panicked mother hid her dead baby in a closet for several days because she feared her own mother's reaction to the death, police said. Detectives and doctors still haven't determined how 7-month-old Katie Taylor died. But officers said her mother, Annalisa Taylor, 30, didn't notify authorities for at least a week. "She feared her mother more than law enforcement," Detective Patrick Brickman said. Taylor's mother, Diane Less, finally discovered the death when she asked Taylor where the baby was. Taylor said the child was in the hospital but could not say which hospital, police said. "I am not proud of what I did," Taylor said in The Miami Herald Tuesday. "I didn't know what to do." Police found no signs of abuse and have not charged Taylor. Katie was recently diagnosed with bronchitis, and police believe she could have died of natural causes. Police said Taylor changed the dead child's diaper, wrapped the baby in plastic and put her in the closet. "She knew the baby was dead and didn't know what to do," Brickman said. "Most people would call a relative. She didn't because her mother was always on her case." Taylor said her mother often accused her of excessive drinking because of past problems with alcohol. Less would not discuss her relationship with her daughter or her granddaughter's death. "They say it might be SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). I'm not a doctor, I just don't know," Less said. "I think the medical examiner's office will come up with its facts and everyone will know what happened."

## Taliban ignore calls for peace as autumn offensive enters 4th day

KABUL (AFP) — Afghanistan's Taliban militia Tuesday ignored international pleas for peace and pounded enemy strongholds held by arch-rival Ahmad Shah Masood on the eve of a meeting with a U.N. special envoy.

Independent sources said heavy artillery barrages were traded on three frontlines and fighting was "relentless" at Tagab, 70 kilometres north-east of here.

In Kabul, two heavy rockets slammed into the capital while outside the former Cuban embassy a truck laden with explosives detonated and destroyed an armoured personnel carrier.

And the day's bloodshed was capped by a Taliban warning to residents living in forward positions of Hussein Kot, about 30 kilometres north of here, to accept militia rule or watch their sons be killed and their villages destroyed in upcoming fighting.

The Taliban's pre-winter offensive entered day four on the eve of talks between U.N. special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi and Taliban supreme leader Mulla Mohammad Omar in the southern capital of Kandahar.

A joint statement released simultaneously by Russia and Uzbekistan urged the warring parties to cease fire and begin constructive talks, which would include a halt of arms sales to both sides.

President Boris Yeltsin and

his Uzbek counterpart Islam Karimov added that open defiance by the Taliban of U.N. resolutions calling for peace was the main cause for the fighting.

Current fighting has been restricted to three fronts: outside of Tagab, north of the Salang tunnel — which links Kabul with northern Afghanistan — and in the adjacent Ghorband Valley.

The three frontlines flank Masood and his troops to the northwest, north and south of his base in Parwan Province.

A fourth front was expected to open from Hussein Kot where the militia warned fighting would escalate if the people of Shamali Plains fail to bow to Taliban demands.

The Shamali Plains begin about 25 kilometres north of Kabul, cover Hussein Kot and stretch out another 75 kilometres to the mouth of the Panjsher Valley, home to Masood.

A fourth line would link the Taliban between Tagab and Ghorband and encircle Masood who remains the last real force from the anti-Taliban alliance capable of thwarting militia plans of taking total control of Afghanistan.

"Feel mercy upon your families and children ... don't allow them to use your farms and gardens as trenches to fight against your brothers," Taliban authorities told the people of Shamali in an official Radio Shariat broadcast.

At Hussein Kot, Taliban lines were quiet Tuesday but sources said fighting "seems relentless at Tagab and we expect an attack to be launched on Masood's airbase at Bagram."

In the Afghan capital, residents said heavy rockets, one which struck Kabul airport was fired from Masood-held hillsides in the north and was possibly aimed at striking Taliban warplanes.

Masood has claimed Taliban fighter pilots in this offensive have bombed civilian populations with cluster bombs, killing many, including 10 people from the same family.

Air traffic at the airport was hectic overnight with observers saying the Taliban were ferrying arms and supplies for the autumn offensive.

No casualties were reported from the rocket attack or from the truck which exploded outside the compound of the former Cuban embassy.

It was not known whether the explosion outside the former embassy was an accident or a deliberate act of sabotage.

Masood ally in New Delhi, former Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, has said through his envoy that Taliban attacks are being repelled with hundreds of the religious troops killed or taken prisoner.

Taliban authorities have declined to comment.

## Death penalty is a colonial legacy, says Sierra Leone minister

FREETOWN (AFP) — Sierra Leone's death penalty is a legacy of the country's British colonial past, Justice Minister Solomon Berewa said after a military court Monday condemned 34 soldiers to die for treason.

"Exactly 100 years ago this year, the colonial masters in 1898 executed 96 people for refusing to pay the hut tax of 26 pence. ... so the capital sentence is not new to Sierra Leone. It is part of our history and a legacy from colonialism," Berewa told a press confer-

ence late Monday.

The 34 were sentenced to death by firing squad after a military court found them guilty of treason for collaborating with the junta ousted from Freetown in February. Military courts offer no recourse to appeal in Sierra Leone.

Berewa said a date had not yet been set for the executions, but indicated that they would not take place soon.

The human rights organisation Amnesty International Monday urged President Ahmad Tejan

Kabbah to show "clemency" to the condemned 33 men and one woman.

When 16 civilians including five journalists accused of collaborating with the junta were sentenced to death by hanging in August, the international community reacted with indignation, particularly the former colonial power Britain.

Their verdict is on appeal. Sierra Leonean Information Minister Julius Spencer said at the press conference that "the offences in question constitute the most serious crimes known to our law."



ay, October 14, 1998

## IN BRIEF

## Bosnian leaders

govina (AP) — The three men are to respect the 1995 Dayton accords. The three — representing the Bosnian Serb, Bosnian Muslim and Bosnian Croat communities — were elected to the post of a new chapter in the Dayton accords. The American mediator, Carlos Westendorp, was elected to the post of a new chapter in the Dayton accords. The American mediator, Carlos Westendorp, was elected to the post of a new chapter in the Dayton accords.

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The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announces that the winners of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for 1998 are Austrian-born scientist Walter Kohn and Britain's John Pople (right). The two receive the prize for their work in pioneering methods that can be used for theoretical studies of the properties of molecules and the chemical processes in which they are involved, the academy said (Reuters photo)

## Nobel Chemistry Prize goes to Briton and American

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Briton John Pople and American Walter Kohn won the Nobel Chemistry Prize Tuesday for their work on how bonds between the atoms in molecules function.

"The laureates have each made pioneering contributions in developing methods that can be used for theoretical studies of the properties of molecules and the chemical processes in which they are involved," the Nobel jury said.

Their work was key to "an enormous theoretical and computational development and the consequences are revolutionising the whole of chemistry," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which adjudged the prize, said.

Pople, 73, and Kohn, 75, will be presented with a medal and a shared cheque for 7.6 million Swedish

kronor (\$938,000) at an official ceremony in Stockholm on Dec. 10, the 102nd anniversary of the death of the creator of the prizes, Swedish inventor and industrialist Alfred Nobel.

Pople works in the department of chemistry at Northwestern University, Illinois, and Kohn in the department of physics at the University of California at Santa Barbara, California.

It is the 90th time that the Nobel Chemistry Prize has been awarded. The United States has provided most laureates with 45 followed by Germany (27), Britain (25), France (7) and Switzerland (5).

The work Pople and Kohn were involved in can be traced back to the growth of quantum mechanics in physics at the turn of the century, the Nobel jury said.

This opened many new possibilities, but its applications within chemistry were long in coming.

"It was not practically possible to handle the complicated mathematical relations of quantum mechanics for such complex systems as molecules," the jury said.

The arrival of computers at the beginning of the 1960s changed all this as they could solve the complex equations "and quantum chemistry (the application of quantum mechanics to chemical problems) emerged as a new branch of chemistry," it added.

Kohn and Pople emerged as the two most prominent figures of this new branch of chemistry.

"W. Kohn's theoretical work has formed the basis for simplifying the mathematics in descriptions of the bonding of atoms, a pre-

requisite for many of today's calculations," the academy said.

"J. Pople developed the entire quantum-chemical methodology now used in various branches of chemistry," it added.

Last year the chemistry prize went jointly to American Paul Boyer, Briton John Walker and Dane Jens Skou for helping to unlock the mystery of how energy is transferred between living cells.

The chemistry prize was the fourth of the six Nobel prizes to be awarded this year and was adjudged by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

Portuguese author Jose Saramago won the Nobel Literature Prize last Thursday and American researchers Robert Furchgott, Louis Ignarro and Ferid Murad won the medicine prize Monday.

## Three scientists working in the U.S. get physics Nobel

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Three U.S.-based physicists won the Nobel Prize Tuesday for discovering how electrons can change their behaviour, work that could lead to further advances in microelectronics.

Robert B. Laughlin of the United States, Horst L. Störmer of Germany and Daniel C. Tsui, a native of China who is now an American citizen, will share the \$978,000 prize.

They discovered that ordinary electrons acting together in strong magnetic fields and very low temperatures can condense into new types of composite subatomic particles that function as a fluid, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said.

Subsequently, other researchers confirmed their experiments and directly observed these new composites, known as quasiparticles.

Laughlin works at Stanford University. Störmer currently is at Columbia University and Tsui teaches at Princeton University. The award

recognises work Tsui and Störmer did together in 1982. Laughlin elaborated on the work the next year.

Laughlin, 47, who did his graduate studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, got the news in the middle of the night.

"The reason why this is important is that it has to do with why the universe is the way it is," he said Tuesday. "You can chop (the universe) to pieces or learn how all the pieces work together. This is a triumph of the second." According to the citation, the three men discovered a new form of "quantum fluid" — fluids such as liquid helium that have certain properties in common, such as superfluidity.

What makes these fluids important for researchers is that they can reveal more about the inner structure and dynamics of matter.

It is "yet another breakthrough in our understanding of quantum physics and to the development of new theoretical concepts of significance in many branches of modern physics," the academy said.

Mansour Shayanfar, a colleague of Tsui's at Princeton, said all three "have done wonderful work."

"They have essentially discovered a new state of condensed matter," he said. Mats Jonson, a physics professor at Sweden's respected Chalmers Institute of Technology, said the laureates' work could be important in the development of smaller electronic components and could lead to improving computer memories by manipulating electrons in this altered state.

The development of microelectronics has allowed other researchers to confirm the work's validity in experiments the academy likened to "measuring the sound of individual hailstones during a hailstorm."

The trio's work built on experiments performed by German physicist Klaus von Klitzing, who won the Nobel Prize in physics in 1985.

Tsui, 59, was born in Henan, China, in 1939. He came to the United States in 1958 to attend Augustana

College in Rock Island, Illinois. He received his doctorate in physics from the University of Chicago and was appointed a professor at Princeton in 1982.

Störmer received his doctorate in physics from Stuggart University. He joined Columbia this year after supervising the Physical Research Laboratory at Bell Laboratories since 1992.

Last year's physics laureates, Claude Cohen-Tannoudji of France and William Phillips and Steven Chu of the United States, were honoured for developing ways of trapping atoms of gas and cooling them to within a millionth of a degree of absolute zero.

The work led to developing extraordinarily accurate atomic clocks.

All Nobel prizes are announced in Stockholm, except for the peace prize which is given in Oslo, Norway. The prizes are presented on Dec. 10, the anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel, the Swedish industrialist and inventor of dynamite who established the prizes in his will.

## Indian entrepreneur wins World Food Prize

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S.-based foundation announced Tuesday it had awarded the 1998 World Food Prize to an Indian entrepreneur for helping develop the role of private enterprise in Indian agriculture.

The prestigious \$250,000 prize, awarded to B.R. Barwale, was to be formally announced Tuesday. It is awarded yearly by the Iowa-based World Food Prize Foundation to people who improve world food supply.

Last year's award went to

two American scientists in Texas and California for their work in developing new pest-control programmes.

Barwale is founder and chairman of Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company, also known as Mahyco, and was specifically honoured for developing private enterprise in India's agricultural sector, the foundation said.

"B.R. Barwale has dedicated his life to improving agricultural productivity in India," said John Ruan, founder of the World Food Prize, in a statement.

"His vision to see the private sector take the lead in India's seed industry has literally transformed the country's food production system."

His achievements serve as a great example to other developing nations striving to become food self-sufficient.

Barwale oversees an operation that produces and markets more than 300 hybrid varieties of rice, wheat, corn, sorghum, pulses, oilseeds and vegetables.

Jalgaon-based Mahyco operates 16 production centres in seven Indian states and com-

prises more than 2,500 dealers, 23 sales offices, and a research and development centre.

The World Food Prize was conceived by 1970 Nobel Peace laureate Norman Borlaug and launched in 1986.

Previous laureates include: M.S. Swaminathan, architect of India's "Green Revolution" in 1987; He Kang, former Chinese agriculture minister in 1993; and Mohammad Yunus, founder of Bangladesh's Grameen Bank in 1994.

## Lawyers contest refusal of bail to Malaysian dissident

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Lawyers for arrested dissident leader Anwar Ibrahim filed an appeal Tuesday challenging a court's refusal of bail, as Malaysia told foreign nations not to interfere with Anwar's forthcoming trial.

No date has been fixed for hearing the appeal. A high court judge had refused bail when Anwar, the former deputy prime minister, was arraigned Oct. 5 on 10 counts of corruption and illegal homosexual acts. Anwar pleaded innocent to all charges.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi denounced what he called attempts by foreign nations to interfere in Anwar's trial, which has been set for Nov. 2, newspapers said.

"This is one example of interference we cannot accept," Abdullah said in comments to local reporters

Monday evening.

He was referring to a report that a man claiming to be a U.S. senator had made a phone call last week to Justice Augustine Paul, the high court judge conducting Anwar's trial, the newspaper New Straits Times said.

The caller told the judge that justice must be seen to be done, the daily said, and the judge reported the call to police.

Such a call is "tantamount to interference as though we do not understand the law and are unable to enforce the law well," Abdullah said.

No other details were available about the reported phone call.

Malaysia has repeated assurances that Anwar, who challenged Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's 17-year reign, will be given a fair trial.

However, a group of

British lawyers, representing Justice International, a human rights group, said they will watch the trial to check whether it is fair.

"We feel that if there is to be a fair and open trial in the case of Anwar, the presence of observers at the trial is imperative," said Sayyad Mohyeddin, a London-based lawyer in the group.

"We have informed the chief justice and the attorney general of our intention to participate at the forthcoming trial as observers," he said.

Anwar, a former heir-apparent to Mahathir, was fired Sept. 2, accused of being morally unfit to lead. The two had differed over economic policy, and Anwar had said Mahathir feared the deputy was a threat to his office.

Anwar was arrested on Sept. 20 and brought to a court nine days later, badly bruised and with a black

eye. He said police had beaten him until he fell unconscious on his first night of captivity.

His lawyers have repeatedly complained that they were being harassed by police and even interrogated about their role as defence attorneys. Until last week, lawyers were denied access to Anwar, who is locked in a cell at Kuala Lumpur's police headquarters.

Meanwhile, opposition groups stepped up protests Tuesday denouncing the harsh Internal Security Act, following the arrest Monday of a vocal, anti-government Muslim activist.

Mohamed Hatta Shaharom, vice president of the Malaysian Reform Society, said the arrest of the group's president, Shaari Sungib, had only resulted in "firing up" members' spirits and the group would "double their effort in reform."

The society is an active member in two newly formed anti-government coalitions. Shaari was the 18th person seen as aligned with Anwar to be arrested under the act, which allows jail without trial. All but five, including Anwar, have been released.

The Coalition for People's Democracy, one of the two new coalitions, urged Malaysians to wear white ribbons every day to show their longing for justice.

"It's small ribbon but it sends a powerful message," said the chairman of the coalition, Tian Chua, about the 7.6-centimetre ribbon with an attached pin.

"This shows that the people of Malaysia have not been frightened by the culture of tyranny and oppression imposed by Dr. Mahathir's government," he said, adding that the ribbons would be handed out nationwide.

## Indian coalition faces new threats

NEW DELHI (AP) — India's ruling coalition was denounced Tuesday by a regional ally for its "dismal performance" since assuming power six months ago.

The Haryana Lok Dal (HLD), Haryana Masses Party said it had supported the Hindu nationalist-led government in the hope that Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee would prove a good administrator.

But HLD leader Om Prakash Chautala said his party's faith had been misplaced. "People's expectations and aspirations have been belied by the dismal performance of the government," the Press Trust of India quoted him as saying.

It was the most strident attack yet on the government by the HLD, which wields

considerable influence in the northern state of Haryana although it has only four seats in the 545-member parliament.

Vajpayee's multi-party coalition survives with the backing of several small groups, making it a fragile alliance in which minor allies wield great clout.

Monday the PMK party, also with four parliament members, threatened to withdraw from the government if Vajpayee bowed to pressure from another coalition partner to replace a cabinet minister.

Infighting over the allocation of ministerial portfolios forced Vajpayee unexpectedly to postpone a scheduled cabinet expansion last week.

The unending feuds prompted an opposition leader to warn Tuesday of "changes in the national political scenario"

following elections for local governments in four states next month.

Muthuvel Karunanidhi said in the southern city of Madras that the Hindu nationalist-led coalition had failed to deliver political stability. "Instability is the hallmark of the Vajpayee government," he said.

The upcoming elections in New Delhi and three states will be the first popularity test for the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) which heads the coalition.

Analysts warn that a BJP defeat could push the main opposition Congress party to try and set up an alternative government with the help of smaller parties.

The Congress is the second largest group in parliament after the BJP.

## Indonesia murder spree spreads to Central Java

JAKARTA (R) — A series of killings of more than 100 Indonesian Muslim clerics and alleged black magic practitioners has spread to the province of Central Java from neighbouring East Java, local newspapers reported Tuesday.

An Islamic teacher, Rachmadi, was strangled and beaten to death by a mob at a mosque in the Central Java town of Demak Sunday, the Republika reported.

"The whole town killed Rachmadi because he is a black magician. If you want, you should detain all of us," shouted a woman in front of Demak's police headquarters after three suspects were detained, the newspaper said.

The detention of the three angered residents and a crowd of 500 surrounded the headquarters, demanding that the suspects be released, reported

Republika. The crowd later dispersed peacefully, it said.

Killers dressed in black have gone on a murder spree in recent months in and around the East Java towns of Banyuwangi and Jember.

The victims, mostly Muslim clerics or alleged practitioners of black magic, have often been chopped into pieces. The bodies of some of the victims have been tied into bundles and hung from trees, while others have been thrown into mosques.

In East Java Monday, two men were killed in the town of Jember and another two in the town of Jombang, newspapers said.

The latest killings raise the official death toll to 109.

The military has been criticised by residents and religious leaders for being slow to investigate the killings.

## Rebels say they are advancing after capturing Kindu

KINDU, DR Congo (AP) — Rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) said Tuesday they were advancing towards the mineral-rich province of Katanga in the southeast after capturing the government's eastern military headquarters at Kindu.

The insurgents are now in control of the town of Samba, 225 kilometres south of Kindu, which is the capital of the east-central province of Maniema, a rebel officer told AFP.

The insurgents said their next major objective was Lubumbashi, the second biggest city in the DRC and the capital of Katanga, President Laurent Kabila's home province. It contains massive deposits of copper, cobalt and zinc.

The rebels are also pursuing 9,000 loyalist troops who fled Kindu Monday after a week-long battle and are heading southwest toward the diamond-rich Kasai provinces, the officer said.

All fighting had halted Tuesday in Kindu, 1,200 kilometres east of Kinshasa.

"We recovered a lot of material and munitions," said Commander Louis Ngizito Siatilo, the chief of the insurgent contingent from rebel-held Kisangani in the northeast, the third biggest city in this huge central African nation.

Other rebel troops marched 350 kilometres to Kindu from Bukavu, the capital of South Kivu province in the far east, on the border with Burundi.

Rebel officer Willy Kola Mdomanuelle put the number of rebel troops who fought for Kindu at 9,000, matching the strength of the defenders.

Ngizito Siatilo said the artillery exchanges had been extremely violent.

The forces loyal to Kabila had both light and heavy artillery weapons in Kindu, and reconnaissance planes, but the rebels found no fighter-bombers at the airport here when they won control of Kindu Monday evening.

Ngizito Siatilo said the loyalist Congolese Armed Forces (FAC) in Kindu were supported by a 1,500-strong battalion of Sudanese government troops and Ugandan rebels who support a son of ousted Ugandan dictator Idi Amin.

Khartoum continues to deny it has sent troops to support Kabila. On the right bank of the Congo River, which cuts Kindu in two, warehouses have been holed by shells, and the ground is littered with cartridges from AK-47 assault rifles.

"This was a battlefield," Ngizito Siatilo said. "The FAC were facing our troops, who were advancing, and had their backs to the river. They resisted, and we really fought."

"This was the first time since we launched our revolution (on Aug. 2) that we had encountered real resistance."

The insurgents' military chiefs say casualties in the battle for Kindu, launched on Oct. 5, were "high," but maintain they tried to minimise loss of civilian lives by refraining from shelling residential neighbourhoods.

A senior military officer in Kinshasa acknowledged Tuesday morning that the loyalist forces had "fallen back in good order" from Kindu.

The insurgents, spearheaded by Tutis, launched their rebellion against Kabila in the east of the DRC after propelling him to power in his own 1996-97 revolution

against the late Mobutu Sese Seko but then falling out with him, accusing of fomenting tribalism, massacres of Tutsis, and dictatorship.

Loyalist forces aided by troops from Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia repulsed a rebel attack on Kinshasa and the Congo River corridor southwest of the capital in August.

Chad has since sent a battalion to aid Kabila, who accuses Uganda and Rwanda of sending troops to fight alongside the rebels.

Uganda says its troops are battling Ugandan rebels with rear bases in the east of the DRC. Rwanda continues to deny that its troops crossed the border.

The insurgents captured at least 400 loyalist soldiers at Kindu who are being housed in the former governor's residence.

They also found two 15-year-old girls who said they had been kidnapped by loyalist troops, a rebel officer told AFP.

The rebels say the government troops killed the governor and his wife and executed the commander of the Congolese Armed Forces' 226th Brigade for "communicating with the enemy."

In Nairobi, meanwhile, the World Vision aid agency said it had started to rescue thousands of Sudanese refugees stranded on the DRC's north-eastern border.

Some 500 people, including pregnant women, the elderly and sick refugees were picked up Sunday and taken to the southern Sudanese town of Yambio, it said in a statement.

The statement said the refugees had been attacked by Kabila's forces and villagers.



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation Established 1975  
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## Example of resolve

AS MUCH as it may be commendable that the NATO countries succeeded in forcing Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to accept to comply with the recent U.N. Security Council resolution on Kosovo, the question that rings loudest is why NATO took so long to act. Serb forces have been roaming free in Kosovo for the past few months, killing innocent Albanians without NATO forces so much as lifting a finger against the Serb forces. No one would want to belittle the impact of NATO's threat to use force on the apparent success of the diplomacy undertaken by U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke. Despite his tireless efforts, Holbrooke would not have succeeded in his shuttle diplomacy had NATO not moved its military might within striking distance of Belgrade.

It was obvious right from the start that President Milosevic was not likely to heed to reason without the manifestation of clear-cut military preparedness to use force. Why then wait until his forces commit more crimes before assembling 430 warplanes to hit Serb military bases? It was last week's shocking revelation that innocent ethnic Albanians were butchered that provided the impetus for a real show of force by NATO. Belgrade never thought that NATO countries could ever get their act together against it as indeed was the case for the first few years of the Bosnian conflict. Only when NATO was poised to strike did Belgrade agree to make a deal. That is why we would have hoped that NATO military preparedness that won it much international acclaim had been set into motion sooner than later to avoid the example of Bosnia.

Still, NATO's determination and will deserve the international community's commendation and appreciation. Now, thanks to NATO, and NATO alone, Serb forces will have to withdraw from Kosovo, accept international supervision and yield to the demands of Albanians for greater autonomy. We would also like to see Serb war criminals apprehended and prosecuted in order to give a lesson to all would-be war criminals in the future that no amount of defiance would absolve them from accountability.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Fahed Fanek criticised certain Jordanian economists, who think that the country's open market policy has been the cause of an economic depression, saying they "live outside history," and are not aware of the Kingdom's reality; its situation and relations with the world. Those economists, the writer said, should know that Jordan has signed a partnership agreement with the European Union, which would create a free zone between the Kingdom and 15 industrial countries. They should know that Jordan has achieved an advanced stage of negotiations to join the World Trade Organisation that would cancel customer restrictions and allow local markets to trade with the world. Such economists should observe that the country has signed the Arab Trade Organisation convention that would decrease customer charges by 10 per cent per year, said Fanek.

Al Dustour's Jihad Momani said if the government insists on implementing the draft law which punishes ownership of machine guns with the death penalty, the Lower House should study the draft law carefully, because it will affect half of Jordan's population, especially in rural areas and the badia. He agreed that such a law is important, but he asked why the government is trying to issue this precise law at a time when there are many crimes that have been committed by knives and daggers? The writer hoped that the decision would not impose regulations which would infringe on Jordanians' rights on their land. The upcoming law has to move the country to a level where people do not have to use weapons to protect themselves, and Momani urged the government to abolish the tradition of letting of firearms at weddings in order to prepare Jordanians for the 21st century.

## Washington Watch

# The meanest and dirtiest campaign

Dr. James J. Zogby

NEW YORK State will be the scene of this year's meanest and ugliest Senate race. Republican Senator Al D'Amato, long known for his ruthless campaign tactics, has met his match. This year's Democratic nominee is congressman Charles Schumer, an equally fierce political attacker.

Both candidates have already raised staggering amounts of money. D'Amato has almost \$25 million to his credit, while Schumer has raised almost \$15 million. By election day, November 3rd, they will each raise and spend even more, making this race 1998's most expensive Senate contest. Most of the money will be used to buy negative attack television ads.

Although the real flood of ads will come in the election's final weeks, already New York voters are seeing the direction the campaign will take. The day after winning the Democratic primary, Schumer was subjected to a state-wide blitz of D'Amato attack ads. The Republican Senator's top political strategist is none other than Arthur Finklestein — a strange conservative operative who was one of Benjamin Netanyahu's top advisors during his 1996 campaign. In line with Finklestein's usual tactics, the D'Amato ads attack Schumer as a big government, big spending liberal.

Schumer has responded with attacks of his own calling D'Amato a crass politician "who has lied for too long" and criticising the Senator's opposition to gun control and environmental protection. While both candidates are equally tough campaigners and share a propensity to seek the political limelight in an effort to pandor to voters (one Democrat even criticised Schumer saying, "the shortest distance between two points is Charles Schumer and a TV camera"), they are politically quite opposite. Schumer is a liberal with a strong record on gun control, banking reform and environmental protection.

D'Amato is a fiscal conservative who is proud of his record of constituent services. This has earned him the derisive nickname "Senator potato," referring to his commitment to use his office to solve even the smallest of problems facing his constituents. This record has also helped secure D'Amato the endorsement of a number of leading Democratic politicians.

While opponents on most issues, the two candidates largely agree on how they approach Middle East issues. Both D'Amato and Schumer are ardent supporters of the anti-Palestine Likud government of Israel. This fact has led one prominent New York rabbi to note that whoever wins the elections "the Jewish community can't

lose. It's a win-win situation." Because almost 20 per cent of New York State's voters will be Jewish, including the hard-line Orthodox of New York City, New York politicians take the most pro-Israel positions of any in the United States.

Both D'Amato and Schumer were, for example, strong supporters of the congressional resolution to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, and both historically have opposed U.S. arms sales to Arab countries. Both candidates strongly criticised President Clinton for what they perceived as administration pressure on the Netanyahu government and both criticised Mrs. Clinton's comments favouring a Palestinian State.

In response to the First Lady's May 1998 comments, D'Amato stated, "It is clear the ultimatum issued by the President to Israel, and Hillary Clinton's statements, indicate that the Clinton-Gore administration has chosen to align itself with the Palestinians and Yasser Arafat against the people of Israel." Not to be outdone, Schumer countered, "When voices in the White House say there ought to be a Palestinian state before there are guarantees of security, they do not set the peace process forward." The role of the First Lady became a campaign issue recently when as part of her national tour to support Democratic candidates, she campaigned with Schumer in New York. Her appearance set off a round of protests from some Jewish leaders and from Republicans who sought to exploit the visit to take Jewish support away from Schumer.

Matt Brooks, the director of the National Jewish Coalition, a Republican organisation stated, "This is hypocritical and political prostitution in its basest form. In compromising the ideals he cares about for the sake of political gain, Chuck Schumer is demonstrating why people don't like politicians." D'Amato did not directly enter the fray, but noted that, "No Senator has done more than Al D'Amato to fight Palestinian terrorism or to ensure that Israel alone makes decisions about its security needs." Through a spokesperson, Schumer sought to establish his record by stating that he had long opposed a Palestinian state stating, "How can we have a Palestinian state, when the Palestinian charter still calls for Israel's destruction?" In fact to make his position clear, Schumer has recently written to President Clinton demanding that the administration go on record publicly opposing the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Another issue on which both D'Amato and Schumer agree is their opposition to any rapprochement with Iran. D'Amato has recently adopted the case of the family of Aissa Flatow, an American Jewish woman who was killed in a bombing attack in Gaza. The family has argued that Iran is the sponsor of Hamas that

ordered the attack and is therefore, responsible for damages done as a result of it. They sued Iran in a New York court and won a judgement of \$247.5 million. The court has ordered that Iranian assets in the United States be turned over to the family in compensation for the loss of their daughter, but the Clinton administration has opposed this judgement as a matter of law and policy.

D'Amato has taken the lead in opposing the administration position on the Flatow case. Schumer has joined him in this saying, "The U.S. government should stop blocking the sale of Iranian assets and the Flatow family deserves compensation for their loss." In past campaigns D'Amato has received as much as 40 per cent of the Jewish vote. This is high for any Republican since the majority of American Jews are Democrats who support a liberal social agenda.

Current polls show D'Amato winning only 25 to 33 per cent of the Jewish vote this year, with Schumer, who is Jewish, winning about 70 per cent.

This has caused D'Amato to work even harder and to take even more strident stands to pandor for votes. He wears yarmulkes at Jewish events and has made a big campaign issue of his leadership in the fight to secure \$1.25 billion for Swiss banks for Jewish survivors of the Holocaust.

In the face of all of this, it should not be surprising that New York's Arab American voters have shown little interest in this campaign. While there are almost 200,000 Arab Americans in New York, their numbers are less than 10 per cent of the much more substantial and powerful Jewish community. It is interesting to note, however, that with New York out of the picture, in the rest of the United States the number of Arab Americans and American Jews are roughly the same.

In any case, in New York, Arab Americans are alienated from both Schumer and D'Amato. Too often in the past they have felt victimised by the rhetoric and behaviour of both candidates. Therefore, despite their political leanings or party affiliations, the community has shown little interest in supporting either campaign.

One Arab American observer noted that the only good thing he could see in the race was that "when it is over, one of the two will be finished in politics." At this point, the race is quite close. Some polls are showing Schumer ahead by a few points while a few others are showing D'Amato with a slight lead. What this means is that the campaign will remain ugly and expensive and full of crass political pandering.

# 'A new dialogue with Islam'

Following is a speech by the foreign secretary of the UK, Robin Cook, to the Ismaili Centre, London.

I AM very glad to have the chance to visit the Ismaili community, and your magnificent centre. It is a masterpiece of Islamic architecture, and it is the most wonderful reminder in the very heart of London that the roots of our culture are not just Greek or Roman in origin, but Islamic as well. Islamic art, science and philosophy have helped to shape who we are and how we think. Islamic numerals have shaped how we count.

The debt our culture owes to Islam is something the West would do well to remember, as we develop our relations with the Islamic World. Because we have grown too far apart. We have let misunderstanding and mistrust develop between the West and Islam.

We cannot afford to let this misunderstanding continue. Not just because it is wrong that two great cultures should misjudge each other so badly. But also because in the modern world, we have no choice but to live and work together. The challenges we face are global challenges. Global warming will affect the Middle East as much as it will affect Europe. Young people in Tehran or Cairo are victims of the drugs trade just like young people in London or Edinburgh. Instability in the Middle East is a concern to Europe, as the region's nearest neighbour, just as it is a concern to the Islamic community. We can work together, and we will all win. Or we can let the mistrust remain, and we will all lose.

Some have said that the West needs an enemy, and that with the cold war over Islam will take the place of the old Soviet Union. They say that there will be a "Clash of Civilisations." They say it is inevitable. I say they are wrong — profoundly wrong. Far from needing Islam as an enemy, we cannot afford to have Islam as anything but a friend. We may have different cultures and different religions, but that does not mean we can never get along.

So we need to work to make sure that this prophecy does not become self-fulfilling. The Holy Koran says: "O People! We created you from a single pair of a male and female and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other, not that you may despise each other." [49:13].

In that spirit, we must work together to improve our understanding of each other, to break down stereotypes and erase the mistrust.

We see each other too much through the dangerous prism of stereotype. Islam sees the West as materialistic, lacking respect for the spiritual, anti-Islamic and determined to use our liberal values as a way of undermining their societies. The West equates Islam with the actions of its most extreme adherents — too much of the media presents Islam not as a rich and varied culture underpinned by one of the world's great religions, but as the sum of terrorist bombings and atrocities conducted by a few in its name.

Both views are profoundly misplaced. The truth is that Osama Ben Laden is no more representative of Islam than the Omagh bombers are of the values of the West. And far from having incompatible cultures, we have a great deal to learn from each other.

The West owes much to Islam. Islam laid the intellectual foundations for large portions of Western civilisation. From our numbers to our understanding of the stars, much of the basis of our civilisation is rooted in Islamic learning.

One of the biggest errors the West could make would be to think that Islamic culture is something alien. It is not. Our cultures have intertwined throughout history. They intertwine today. And they must continue to do so, as our futures become more and more closely bound together.

Last week I told the Labour Party Conference that one of the most fundamental challenges we face is how we can fashion a positive relationship with the Islamic World. It is one of the key questions on my mind as Foreign Secretary.

I believe we are making progress. We are one by one addressing some of the major causes of difficulty between the West and the Islamic World. In New York a couple of weeks ago, I held talks with Dr. Kamal Kharazi, the foreign minister of Iran. They were rather different from the exchanges that normally pass between foreign ministers. Together, we gave relations between Iran and Britain a fresh start.

Dr. Kharazi made clear that Salman Rushdie faces no threat sanctioned by the Iranian government. The

implications go much wider. It means Britain and Iran will be able to work together on the common challenges that face us both. Practical cooperation against the drugs trade will be stepped up.

The European Union will now be able to have a much more constructive relationship with Iran. Our negotiation, on the EU's behalf, with the Americans in the spring defused the threat to trade between Europe and Iran by the Iran/Libya Sanctions Act. New opportunities for trade and investment will open up, in both directions.

We are making progress in clearing away the problems. It is now time to start building the understanding and trust we so urgently need. Today, I want to propose we begin a proper dialogue between Europe and the Islamic World. It is time the European Union and the Organisation of Islamic Conference started talking, at a high level, about the many issues of common interest. About the Balkans, the Middle East peace process, Afghanistan, terrorism, drugs, human rights and the treatment of minorities. By talking, we can learn to understand and trust one another.

But such a dialogue must be a dialogue just for diplomats, or even for foreign secretaries. I have a grand title and a big office, but I never lose sight of the fact that what really matters is the people. And that the relationships that really matter are the ones between our peoples.

So the dialogue we must build between Europe and the Islamic World must be between our peoples as well. Our teachers need to talk. Our artists, architects, and philosophers need to talk, and urgently. Because we have so much to gain from doing so. And so much to lose if we do not do so.

There is much going on already. Britain has several outstanding academic institutions doing excellent work in this field. There are private groups that are helping redress the balance. But we will not make the progress we need until mainstream opinion forms on both sides.

In the media, in education and elsewhere — start to smash the stereotypes and misguided attitudes that lie at the heart of so much of the strife and polemic between our two cultures.

The Foreign Office is doing its part. My colleague

Derek Fatchett, the minister of state, holds regular briefings with leaders of Britain's Islamic community. We are sponsoring student exchanges, seminars and conferences designed to break down barriers.

And the Foreign Office is modernising so it can be genuinely effective in this area. It needs to become more representative of all the richness and diversity that modern Britain has to offer. So we are encouraging bright young British Muslims, of all walks of life, to consider the diplomatic service as a career. They will find a ready welcome. For it will only be with the active participation and support of dedicated British Muslims that we will be able to claim we have properly included the Islamic dimension in our foreign policy.

Britain has two advantages in our relations with the Islamic World. We have a millennium of shared history, not all of it easy. And we have a flourishing Islamic community. There are over nine hundred mosques in Britain. Muslim schools are now entitled to state funding and support. About a million and half British Muslims are making a major contribution to British society.

They are playing a bigger and bigger part in the cultural, political and economic life of the country. Their entrepreneurial skills are helping to power the British economy. Their tradition of learning is reflected in the contribution they make to Britain's professions. Their cuisine has made a deep and lasting impression on British life. In the modern world, Britain will benefit increasingly from being a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic society.

And that is why I am so pleased to be here today. The Ismaili community is a unique bridge to Islam. You are spread out across the globe. You are strongly loyal to all the countries in which you live, and yet wherever you are you hold fast to the central values of your tradition — unity, self-reliance, and service. Like this building, you fit in harmoniously and enrich wherever you are, and do so without diluting your unique identity.

We have a hope. That the West and Islam can live together, understand one another, learn from each other, trust each other. That we can be enriched by the other without losing our separate identities. The Ismaili community proves that this can be done.

## LETTERS

### Stand up for your rights!

To the editor:

FIRST OF all as a Jordanian who has property in what has become Israel I want to express my appreciation to the Jordan Times ("Property of Jordanians in Israel — a lingering issue" October 8-9) for having accorded space to this very important issue.

There are thousands if not tens of hundreds of thousands of Jordanians who have kept the keys to their homes and deeds to their properties in their safety deposit boxes and under their pillow cases waiting for the day that justice is served.

What I found curious about the otherwise straight forward report on the matter was the overwhelming number of unnamed officials, former officials, legal experts and other anonymous sources.

With the exception of His Excellency Dr. Marwan Muasher, no one seems to have been ready to go on the record as having defended Jordanian rights and property in what has become Israel.

able to the writer of this article. Were they ashamed, afraid, did they want to be "discreet," or was it the decision of the editors to leave out the names of prominent citizens who spoke out in defence of citizens rights to reclaim their property?

Whatever the reason, why should Israelis or their state be inclined to grant restitution or facilitate the negotiations on this important bilateral issue, if our own officials shy away from making public statements about the matter? How can we, as Jordanians, be equal to our new partners in peace if we don't openly and proudly demand our rights? The aim of the society (referred to in the article as the absentee property committee) was to create awareness among absentee landlords of their rights and to document and preserve whatever documents exist. These would assist in the legal proceedings which will ultimately decide the fate of the land and properties. This non-government society would also serve as an additional source of support to the government's efforts in the negotiation process.

The society could even be involved in the final status talks and make contributions which the government, for reasons of diplomacy and others, can't make.

The society still awaits legislation, which was postponed due to the hesi-

tation of some of the 30-odd members who initially showed interest. The lack of familiarity with the democratic processes among some of the members held back the official registration of this society.

The stated policies of the government of Prime Minister Fayez Al Tarawneh should expedite the process of democratisation, encourage civil society organisations and policies of transparency. This combination of progressive policies will, hopefully encourage the registration of this society as soon as possible. As a co-initiator of this effort, I hereby issue this open invitation to all Jordanians in the Kingdom and abroad who want to and can offer help towards this initiative.

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### On being a 'real' Serb

To the editor:

PROBABLY I will sound more like a very ordinary human being than a diplomat, but believe me I did not know whether to cry or to laugh after reading the article "On being a Serb" (October 12).

As a nation, we Yugoslavs are tired

and disgusted by such propaganda which has lasted for eight years.

And what are the effects of such articles from those who control the flow of information? Three days ago, in CNN's public opinion poll more than 60 per cent of Americans clearly stated that they were opposed to any military intervention against Yugoslavia. At the same time, Sky News public opinion poll showed that 80 per cent of British people were against, and BBC's poll that about 69 per cent were opposed.

There is growing concern all over the world regarding military threats, ultimatums and possible bombardments of Yugoslavia. And, it is very easy to answer why. Many nations are going to pose the question — are we the next targets?

It is getting harder and harder to persuade the world that threats and bombs are related to Yugoslavia, or Serbs, or Kosovo, or Albanians in that Yugoslav Province.

There is growing awareness that bombardments and possible killings are only related to the (strategic, but unknown) aims of world powers.

I am not going to analyse the present situation in the world, but one should take into consideration, for example, the fact that Albania has seen no improvement. On the contrary, the situation there is getting worse and worse every day.

With respect to the article, I would like to pose the question if you can imagine an Arab writing something like that about his nation or motherland.

Does anyone really believe that the author of the article is a Serb, despite the Serbian name. It is never hard to find the "right people" in the "right place" — at least for a reasonable amount.

I will not say anything about the statements in the article, because it will not help. But ask thousands of the Jordanians who have studied in Yugoslavia in previous decades.

It should be mentioned that articles like "On being a Serb" are published by magazines of countries that are keen to bombard Yugoslavia. And, by that very fact, it is hard to believe that they are objective and impartial, isn't it?

Regarding Kosovo and Metohija, it is clear that we fulfil all the points of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1199. There is no U.N. mandate for any military action against Yugoslavia. It is clear that there is no legal ground for any military intervention, nor can it be justified (not even with articles like "On being a Serb").

Once again state that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is convinced that there is no alternative but negotiations without preconditions. There is

no alternative except for a political solution.

Yugoslavia challenges anybody in the world to produce the smallest evidence that crimes in Kosovo have happened at all, and to prove that such crimes have been done by Serb and Yugoslav authorities. There is no humanitarian catastrophe, nor ethnic cleansing in Kosovo or Metohija.

Finally, for months we have been watching on TV the same tractor and people on it as a proof for such "claims." Sometimes I ask myself if there is really anyone in the world who still believes those stories. Not only those related to Yugoslavia.

We are still waiting to see how the "international community" is going to pressure the representatives of Albanian political parties from Kosovo and Metohija to condemn (their) terrorism — which is finally requested by the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1199.

Or, maybe they are brutally keen to bombard Serbs to put pressure on the representatives of Albanian political parties from Kosovo and Metohija to condemn terrorism.

History is repeating itself.

Oliver Potocnik  
 Chief of Mission  
 Embassy of the Federal  
 Republic of Yugoslavia,  
 Amman



# Natural born copy-cats

By Stephen Moss

TWO ATTRACTIVE young women stare, expressionless, from police cars surrounded by the world's press. One, Florence Rey, was last week sent to prison for 20 years for her part in a shoot-out that left five people dead. The other, Véronique Herbert, is on trial with her boyfriend for the cold-blooded killing of a 16-year-old.

The symmetry of the cases, taking place a week apart in Parisian courtrooms, is remarkable. Two students who, with their boyfriends, went out looking to kill. Both have been held in the same jail; they have met and are apparently on good terms. What France, and perhaps the world outside, now wants to know is: Are they Natural Born Killers?

The factor connecting these cases, the key ingredient that ensured massive publicity, is that both have been linked to Oliver Stone's 1994 film of that name, famously so violent that Quentin Tarantino wanted his name removed from the credits. Stone had, his critics alleged, not just named a psychopathic type but actually fostered murder, influencing impressionable youths such as Rey to emulate the cool killers in his movie.

In the Rey case, the link was hazy. Police had found publicity material for the film in the squalid flat shared by Rey, 19, at the time of the murders, and 23-year-old Audrey Maupin, who was killed in the shoot-out. The press latched on

to it and christened the pair "France's Natural Born Killers." The police released pictures of Rey — arms folded, dressed in denim, staring straight to camera — that quickly came to adorn the T-shirts of young Parisians, sharing a kind of vicarious rebellion. The cycle was complete: Real life had become part of the merchandising of murder.

With Véronique Herbert, the connection is more explicit. Indeed, she has cited the movie as part of her defence. Herbert, 20, and her boyfriend Sébastien Paindavoine, 19, allegedly lured their victim, Abdeladim Gahbiche, to his death with a "diabolical" trap that involved the young woman offering to sleep with him. Gahbiche, 16, and Herbert stripped; then, responding to a pre-arranged signal, Paindavoine stabbed Gahbiche in the back and neck. Herbert used a second knife to stab him in the stomach. When he was dead they buried him in the garden of Paindavoine's house and fled. They were arrested three days later.

Herbert's explanation of why she joined in the stabbing was bizarre: "I just didn't want Sébastien to do it all alone. A murder, that's something which turns your life upside down, and I didn't want him to live that alone." She says there was no motive and puts much of the blame on the movie: "The film coincided with my state of mind. Maybe I muddled up dream and reality. I wanted to eliminate someone, as if by magic... The idea of killing invaded me."

Stone's film has been dogged by controversy since its release, and linked to at least a dozen murders. It caused a furious spat between Stone and thriller writer John Grisham, who argued that Stone and Warner Bros should be held accountable. It has been a political hot potato for the British Board of Film Censors, which postponed the film's video release after the Dunblane massacre. Now, it will forever be linked in France with these two cases. The pro-censorship lobby cite the film as conclusive evidence that screen violence is rapidly translated into street violence — that the image can become the reality.

Grisham's interest was sparked by the murder in Mississippi of a friend, Bill Savage. The killers were teenage runaways from Oklahoma. Sarah Edmondson and Ben Darras. Sarah testified that she and her accomplice had been high on LSD and had been inspired by multiple video viewing of Natural Born Killers. They took a murderous trip across America which echoed that of Mickey and Mallory Knox, the young lovers played by Woody Harrelson and Juliette Lewis, who kill 52 people at random in Stone's film.

The Savage murder coincided with similar cases in Utah and Georgia, and Grisham came out publicly in support of a lawyer who attempted to sue Stone and Warner Bros on behalf of a client who had been shot by Edmondson and Darras in an attack on a convenience store. "The

artist should be required to share the responsibility along with the nut who pulled the trigger," argued Grisham.

Stone's reply was withering: "Has your father been brutalised? Sue Oedipus and call Hamlet as a witness. Do you hate your mother? Blame Medea and Joan Crawford. Has your lawyer-husband been unfaithful? Slap a summons on Grisham. After all, he wrote The Firm."

That argument codified the whole debate about censorship and screen violence: it should be required reading for all those knee-jerk moralists eager to make a cheap point about a controversial movie. Grisham argued that Natural Born Killers was a special case because the violence took place in a "moral void," that Mickey and Mallory never pay for or learn from their actions. Stone countered that his movie was a satire on the bloodlust of the media and American society, and that it is society — not the artists who seek to reflect it — that should be held responsible.

The argument refuses to go away, yet it never actually goes anywhere either. The row over Natural Born Killers, given fresh impetus by the ghastly symmetry of the cases in Paris, focuses a debate that can be stretched to embrace many other movies, many other murders. Stanley Kubrick's A Clockwork Orange was linked by the police to a series of rapes and beatings after its 1971 release. A judge declared it "an evil in itself" and Kubrick withdrew the movie in the

U.K. Child's Play 3, in which Chucky the doll is killed on a railway line, was linked to the murder in 1993 of James Bulger when a video of the film was found in the house of one of the perpetrators.

Those who call for censorship argue that such links are inevitable: "All the evidence shows that these videos lead to a culture of violence and we need to stop it," said Alton when Natural Born Killers came out. But where would you begin — and where would you end? The Catcher in The Rye, which encouraged Mark Chapman to assassinate John Lennon, would have to go. Dingo Taxi Driver, which inspired John Hinckley to shoot Ronald Reagan. Lolita, that textbook for paedophilia, would clearly be unacceptable. And any thoughts of filming Bret Easton Ellis's American Psycho should be banished at once.

Stone's movie is gory, unmediated, rapid and amoral, but whether it is really responsible for all the deaths laid at its door is impossible to say. The killers in the Savage case were disaffected youths high on drugs and with easy access to guns; Florence Rey was under the spell of her lover; Herbert was a fantasist, a dangerous dreamer according to one psychiatrist. The film may be one piece in a grotesque jigsaw, but zoom in on that alone and the picture is lost.

— The Guardian

## Global Village

### KGB shows off its past — and present

By Alastair Macdonald  
Reuters

KGB. THE very letters send tingles down the spine of anyone who has lived in the later 20th century.

The Committee for State Security, like the Soviet Union whose people it oppressed and whose interests it projected abroad in the cold war, is now consigned to history. Yet that history remains hazy to Russians who suffered at its hands and to foreigners familiar with the initials but little else.

One of the more shadowy turnings on Moscow's tourist trail gives an insight into how the organisation saw itself. It also demonstrates how far, though communism has come and gone, the KGB has, like a seasoned old spy, carried on in a new guise.

The KGB may have ceased to exist in 1991. But the KGB museum — formally The Historical Demonstration Room of the Federal Security Service — begins its trip down memory lane some three centuries before the Bolshevik revolution of 1917 and takes the curious visitor beyond 1991 and right up to the present day.

In between, it provides fascinating glimpses of life in the shadows, from the false moustache worn by a U.S. diplomat when he was arrested as a CIA agent in the 1980s to a camera built into a wristwatch and a pipe owned by British spy Kim Philby.

Among the quaint cold war relics, however, there is an air of continuity. Outside, founder Felix Dzerzhinsky's statue in front of the KGB building on Lubyanka Square was among the first to be hauled down by Moscow crowds when the Soviet regime fell.

But inside, the goateed bust of the man whose Cheka secret police killed tens of thousands in the Red Terror after the revolution still greets any visitors permitted — by appointment only — to enter the secret service's museum round the back.

Simply penetrating the holy of holies of Soviet secrecy is, however, a sign that times have changed. Yuri Andropov, the KGB head who rose to lead the Soviet Union, certainly did not have foreign tourists in mind when he opened the museum in 1984.

"At first, it was only open to our colleagues. Even our wives and children were not admitted," the secret service colonel leading one recent tour told his Western audience.

"We never imagined that one day we would be inviting foreigners — and even members of foreign special services!" Some exhibits have certainly changed since Andropov's day.

The sword and shield — symbol of the KGB, the

"sword and shield of the state" — still adorn the wall. But they now defend Russia's white, blue and red tricolour, not Lenin's red flag.

The internal security organisation is now called the FSB (Federal Security Service). Foreign intelligence has been hived off as the SVR. And the museum features photographs of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, once a target of KGB suspicion, who thwarted the 1991 hardline communist coup backed by the agency.

The exhibition starts with woodcuts and accounts of the role of intelligence and espionage in the days of Ivan the Terrible.

Alexander Chernyshevov gets a special exhibit as the first great Russian spy for his role in infiltrating Napoleon's camp as do the secret police of the last tsar, Nicholas II's Okhrana (Guard) was hated by communists for repressing revolution.

Its place in the museum, however, gives the impression that some at the KGB also felt the Okhrana merited inclusion on the roll of honour, defending the state, whatever that state was.

The state was not always kind to its secret servants. Dzerzhinsky, who justified any deaths of the innocent as necessary to defend communism, died mysteriously in 1926.

"He was well-educated and self-sacrificing to the cause of a better society," the official guide tells visitors inspecting Dzerzhinsky's desk and a display of the quasi-uniform of his dreaded Chekists — leather coat and cap, pistol on the hip.

"Now we can say Dzerzhinsky was mistaken," the guide adds.

A display of past heads of the organisation tells its own story. Of Dzerzhinsky's successors at the agency later known as OGPU, NKVD and other titles before becoming the KGB in 1954, some lasted just weeks in the 1930s before being shot. Some killings took place in cellars below the museum building.

Genrikh Yagoda and Nikolai Yezhov organised Stalin's party purges, show trials and the Great Terror that swept up millions, then joined their victims with a bullet in the back of the head.

Lavrenty Beria lasted 15 years. But when Stalin died in 1953, Beria too was shot and millions released from the gulag.

In all, a museum plaque states, some 20,000 security service personnel were repressed — shot or jailed — under Stalin. That pales, however, against the millions of others who suffered.

"The special forces say their history is full of hardships," said Anya, a private tour guide for a party of Western tourists. "But really their history is

just the history of our country." The museum celebrates spies as well as the secret police, recounting heroics in the war against Germany, such as those of the Red Orchestra network of communists in Hitler's Berlin.

Cold War curios add a touch of James Bond — a camera hidden in a cigarette lighter, a fountain pen that fires bullets and that dreadfully unconvincing CIA false moustache.

KGB photographs snap Soviet traitors and Western diplomats passing notes stuffed into street lamps and other hiding places.

Caught in the act, the frightened faces of arrested traitors facing execution contrast with the resignation of diplomats who, their covers blown, contemplate an early trip home.

Philby, the "Third Man" double agent who fled to Moscow in 1963 after a career passing secrets, donated his pipe and a copy of his memoirs affirming his commitment to communism. His later drink-filled disillusion with life in the USSR is not mentioned.

Other spies, branded traitors in the West, are honoured.

They include Britain's George Blake, still living in Moscow, atom spy Klaus Fuchs and Rudolf Abel, whom Washington swapped for downed U2 spy pilot Gary Powers in 1962. Nearby lies a vial of poison Powers was supposedly meant to take to avoid capture.

The tour does not end, however, with the photographs of Dzerzhinsky's statue being hauled down in 1991 and the KGB building daubed with graffiti reading "Svoboda" (Freedom).

The work goes on. A bottle of aftershave holds liquid for developing invisible ink — used by a German agent in 1994.

Dozens of Western agents have been arrested in recent years.

But there are signs, too, of cooperation with old adversaries, such as a commendation from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration for battling the narcotics trade.

The fight against civil violence is also illustrated. There are bombs in soft drinks cans, a show of heavy weaponry used by Chechen guerrillas and a scrawled bomb threat written this year by angry factory workers demanding months of back wages.

That note is a reminder as Russia descends into its latest crisis that it is to the Lubyanka that the rulers in the nearby Kremlin will again come running if public anger boils over.

Other things, too, have not changed.

"What's your name?" I ask our FSB guide after the tour. "I'm sorry," he said. "I'm not at liberty to say."

### Kabul's poorest hidden behind the all-enveloping burqa

By Kathy Gannon  
Associated Press

CONCEALED in giant swaths of blue cloth, a woman steps out of the shadows and whispers in accented English: "I am an educator. Do you have a job for me, not in Kabul, in the provinces?"

The rancid smell of an open sewer hangs heavy in the mid-afternoon heat and the bark of stray dogs makes the whisper barely audible.

Another woman outside a blue-tiled mosque eyes a foreigner. Quickly she tucks her chin to her chest and stoops her shoulders trying it seems to bury herself deep inside her burqa. She steps forward her hand outstretched.

"I'm not a beggar, but I have no choice. I need food for my family," says a voice from within.

In the beleaguered capital, ruled by Afghanistan's hardline Taliban religious army, women have been on the receiving end of most of the militia's Islamic edicts.

Women cannot work, girls do not go to school. Women are not allowed to leave their homes unless accompanied by a male relative. Taxi drivers routinely are beaten if their fare is a woman alone.

Devastated by relentless fighting

between rival Islamic factions, aid workers say an estimated 30,000 widows are among the hardest hit by the Taliban's rigid rules regarding women.

Forced off the job in 1996 when the Taliban took control of Kabul some women have resorted to begging, others to sending their young children on to the street to scavenge and beg. The number of these so-called street children in Kabul, according to a survey by one aid group, is about 28,000.

"There are a lot of widows in Afghanistan who have lost their husbands, their bread winners, in the war... these women have to do something for their survival," said Huma Saeed, a member of a small, but vocal Afghan women's group called the Revolutionary Afghan Women's Association. Their members, like Saeed, are mostly in neighbouring Pakistan.

"They have lost the male members of their family and they themselves cannot have a job," says Saeed. "Beggings is the only way."

The Taliban defend their edicts in the name of Islam and remind its critics that the previous rulers of Kabul, led by ousted President Burhanuddin Rabbani, destroyed the city in four years of bitter fac-

tional fighting that killed 50,000 people, many of them women and children. They say the streets were not safe from marauding bands of men who would steal and rape.

But for women it seems the Taliban's harsh edicts are taking a toll on their mental health. At Kabul's only mental health hospital, Dr. Shaheen Shah Wasah, says since the Taliban take-over the number of women patients is on the increase.

Theirs is a small shabby ward. Even behind closed doors several women bury themselves in their burqa, lying listlessly on the bed. Some moan and rock back and forth. Others squat in a corner. Depression is their greatest enemy, says Wasah.

"Some of them were students or teachers or worked in the government," he said. "Now she is in her home. She has no picnic. She can't go anywhere... anymore. Of course it affects her brain."

There have been reports, although not documented, that suicide among women in Afghanistan has increased dramatically in Kabul since the Taliban take-over.

Wasah agreed, but said that suicide in Islamic Afghanistan is shameful and victims are buried quickly and quietly.

"Many more women are coming to my hospital... they are suffering from depression," he said. "But many more are coming for medicine and going back home."

But the medicine is running out, says Wasah. International aid workers, who have left Kabul to protest a Taliban order relocating them to abandoned school dormitories, were supplying Kabul's only mental health hospital with its medicines. Another week and Wasah's stock of medicines will be gone.

"Then I don't know what I will do," he said. "Maybe I will take them and leave them outside the presidential palace."

On the street outside the mental health hospital, children scramble and jostle for a place in front of the World Food Programme bakeries that supply subsidised bread to some of Kabul's poorest. Children, clutching their WFP slip — proof that they are in need — wrap the warm bread in their tattered scarves and trudge back home.

Six-year-old Laila rubs her inflamed eye, squinting into the sun, as she explains that the bread and rice is the only food her family is likely to eat that day.

"I come every day... there are six of us in my family," she says.



### Dubrovnik: The peaceful pearl of the Dalmatian

By Gerd-Eckard Zehm

"IT'S NOT at all dangerous here now," says the German tourist at the next table in the harbour cafe, and none of her companions disagree.

Dubrovnik, the pearl of the Adriatic which was so badly afflicted by the horrors of the war in Yugoslavia, has regained its peace — and to a large extent its former beauty.

It was just over six years ago that the awful pictures went round the world — flames leaping out of medieval palaces, a pall of smoke over the city UNESCO had declared a world heritage site back in 1979.

The people bombarding the city from the hills did not care one iota for the city's cultural heritage, nor indeed for the fact that there were no troops in Dubrovnik at the time.

The city was besieged from October 1991 to the end of July 1992. Two hundred civilians and 100 soldiers died, and by the time it was over scarcely a public building or church in the old city centre had survived unscathed.

Now, as you walk through the historic city centre surrounded by mighty stone walls, what happened in the war seems just a nightmare from the distant past. Restaurants and cafes have reopened, and classical concerts are staged in

front of the rector's palace.

Only when you look more closely do you discover traces of the war. Some walls still bear the scars inflicted by shrapnel, and behind the facades of some buildings there is nothing but a yawning void.

Above all, when you walk round the top of the old city walls you are struck by the extent to which the time-worn old roof tiles are interspersed with patches of bright, new red.

Over \$100 million has already been spent on restoring historic cultural monuments, a large proportion of it donated by the international community. The city council reckons that it will cost four

times as much again to repair the remaining damage, though it is hardly noticeable as you stroll through the city.

Six years after the war, tourism has still not properly picked up. Of the city's two dozen or so large hotels, five have yet to reopen. The ruins of the splendid Imperial just outside the old city centre are a reminder of the siege.

Other large hotels along the coast have stayed shut because as yet there are not enough tourists to keep them going. In 1990 the city welcomed just under 300,000 foreign tourists. Last year it was fewer than 80,000.

— DPA







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## Final talks to save NBA season get underway

NEW YORK (AP) — When David Stern and Billy Hunter sit down across from each other in a hotel conference room, it will be their last opportunity to save the league's uninterrupted string of 35,001 games over 51 seasons.

Judging from the pessimism so abundant on both sides, their chances of keeping the NBA's perfect record intact are roughly equal to those of Michael Jordan airballing a title-clinching jumper — slim and none.

The last chance to save a full, 82-game season began Tuesday when owners, led by commissioner Stern, and players, led by union chief Hunter, met for collective bargaining talks at a Manhattan hotel.

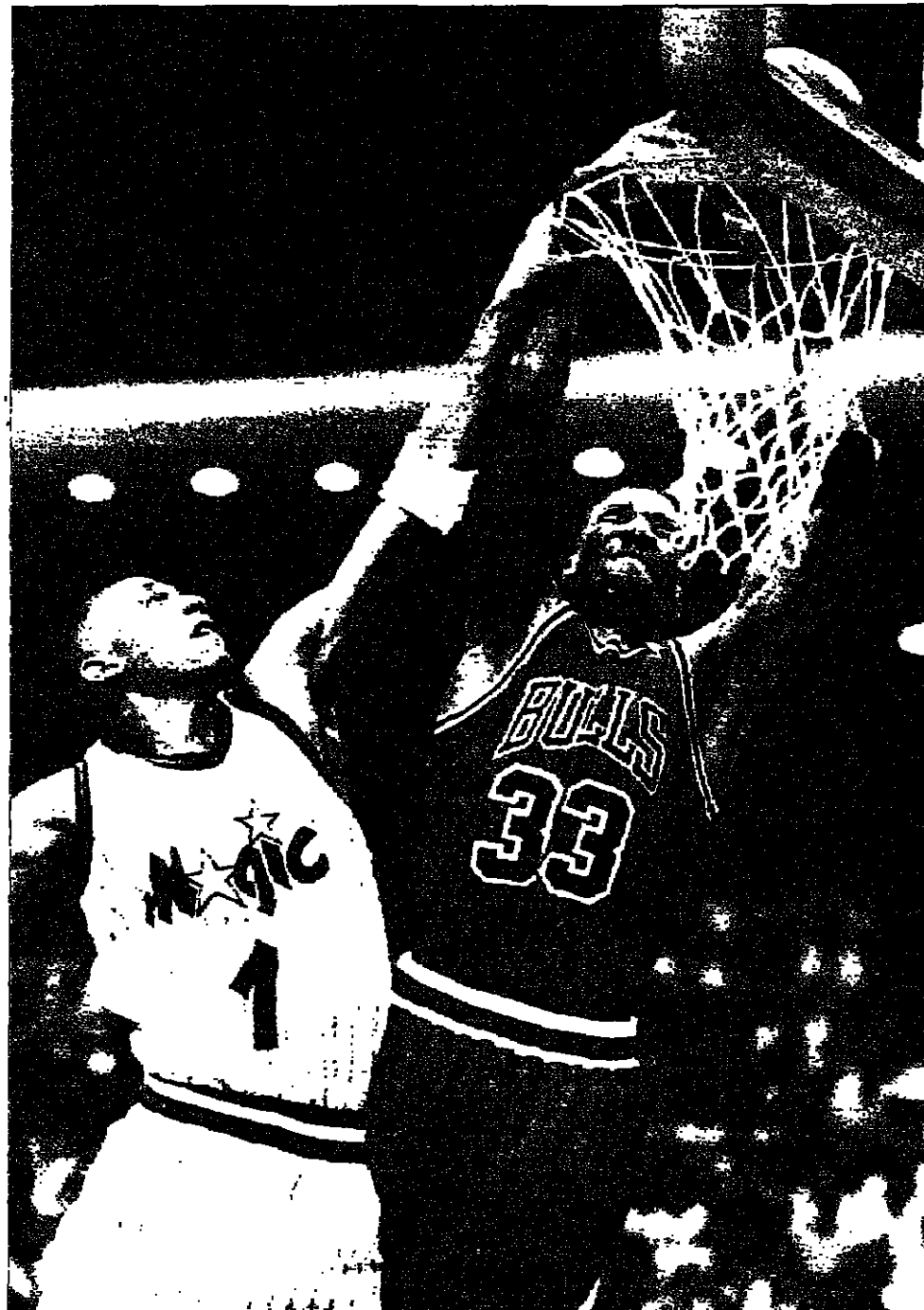
Barring a quick settlement, the league will cancel games for the first time in its history. The regular season is scheduled to begin Nov. 3.

"I think it's a real shame," NBA deputy commissioner Russ Granik said of the perfect record. "The people it means the most to, probably, are those of us in the league office. David's been at this for 30-some years, and I've been at it for more than 20, so that's something we have taken a lot of personal pride in."

"We feel pretty bad about it, but at some point you have to accept that there are other issues that are more important. And the overall financial health of the league has to take precedence over that record that we hadn't missed a game," Granik said.

The sides have met for only two formal bargaining sessions since the lockout began July 1, and their meeting last Thursday was more of a question-and-answer parley than a bargaining meeting.

About 15 players met at the union's offices Monday to discuss the specifics of a counterproposal. When it is presented Tuesday, the owners will not be expected to respond positively unless the players have accepted the demand to somehow place a definitive limit on the amount of league revenues that will be devoted to player



Michael Jordan goes for a slam dunk as Anfernee Hardway of the Orlando Magic tries to stop him (file photo)

salaries.

Putting it in the lingo of the business, the current "soft" salary cap must be replaced by a "hard" cap, or at least a "harder" cap.

Otherwise, no deal. "Certainly this is the least successful (negotiation)," Granik said. "In terms of reaching a deal, this is the worst we've ever had. We've never gotten to this point without being able to make a deal."

The NBA is a \$2 billion-a-year business, and it is incomprehensible to most fans that the owners and players haven't been able to come up with a way to

divvy the pie. Like the disastrous baseball strike of 1994, the less-destructive hockey lockout of 1994-95 and the NFL strike of 1987, the combatants in the NBA lockout stand to do more harm to their sport than good.

The NBA has enjoyed leaps in prosperity that would have been unimaginable less than two decades ago in Magic Johnson's and Larry Bird's rookie season when the finals were televised on a tape-delayed basis.

Since then, the league has enjoyed a renaissance

and gained a worldwide appeal that has shown no sign of ebbing — even with the current possibility that Jordan will retire from the six-time champion Chicago Bulls.

As the game's popularity has soared, so, too, have the revenues. Franchises that were worth only a few million dollars in the 1980s have become worth hundreds of millions of dollars, and player contracts that were formerly valued in the hundreds of thousands have grown to be worth more than \$100 million for the most promising young players.

## World chess tourney delayed

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The World Chess Championship will be moved back to early 1999 to placate defending champion Anatoly Karpov, who threatened to boycott the event.

Israel Gelfor, a member of the executive committee of the World Chess Federation, said Monday the match had been moved to early 1999, instead of Nov. 29-Dec. 27 as originally planned.

Karpov won the world title in January and was to have held it for two years. But the World Chess Federation, known by its French acronym as FIDE, decided the championship should take place annually.

Eric Johnson, assistant director of the United States Chess Federation, said an agreement had been reached to reschedule the tournament. The agreement also would require Karpov to play in early rounds of the tournament.

In defending his title last January, Karpov waited until some 100 of the world's best players had been whittled down to a single challenger, then the challenger played Karpov for the title.

Karpov said Monday he was still undecided on whether to participate.

"At this moment I cannot say 100 percent I will play," Karpov said.

## Lewis to forgo millions to take on Holyfield

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's WBC heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis is prepared to forgo millions of dollars to meet WBA and IBF champion Evander Holyfield.

Lewis is set to earn less than half of the estimated \$20 million purse on offer to fight the American in February or March, almost certainly in Las Vegas.

It will be screened by TVKO, the pay-per-view arm of American cable network Home Box Office, who put their money on the table in mid-summer and guaranteed Holyfield his 20 million dollar fortune.

All the hard talking has gone on between promoters Don King and Panos Eliades and manager Frank Maloney while Lewis has been attending the Commonwealth Awards in Ghana.

Lewis' planned December 12 defence against in America — in which Lou Savarese was the proposed opponent — has been scrapped. The terms of the deal decrees that neither man takes an interim fight.

Now it is all up to the men who will actually be doing the fighting. The ball is firmly in the respective courts of Messrs Lewis and Holyfield.

Maloney said on Tuesday: "I'm happy. It's a fight we need, one that boxing needs badly. If Lennox is successful and brings the three belts back then his earning capacity will go up too, like Holyfield's."

"Both fighters have asked for around the figures that have been quoted. We are going back with what we believe they want, so if the unification doesn't come off it's because the boxers don't want it to happen, not the promoters."

"Holyfield asked for a figure that is guaranteed. Don King knows this is a fight boxing needs for its own credibility. If he can make this fight he's done a great service to boxing by being the good guy and giving

the public what they want."

Mike Tyson's fight licence could be returned next Monday, thus bringing another major name into the heavyweight title equation.

Maloney added: "For the winner of Lewis-Holyfield, the next biggest fight out there is Tyson. But no one knows what's going to happen with Tyson."

"He's got a button that can self-destruct at any minute. He may get his licence back, but he may do something crazy in the next week, so you don't know."

"Obviously the fight we wanted was against Holyfield. We've got to win the belts to be recognised as the undisputed world champion and from then on Lennox is in the driving seat — and we can call the tune."

King and Maloney may differ in size and volume, but the 'Little and Large' of boxing were in full agreement that Lewis v. Holyfield could not run hot for much longer.

After a string of heavyweight controversies, none so serious as the Holyfield-Tyson bite-fight, the division — and the sport — needs this unification.

King and Maloney are set to join forces to oversee and foster the American promoter's plans for a European operation. Yet the pair certainly could not see eye-to-eye soon after Lewis landed the WBC title for the first time in 1992.

"Boxing's a funny world, some very strange marriages. He called me a mental midget and pugilistic pygmy, issued a letter to the Lewis camp and all the English press about me", added Maloney.

"But things are going well now, that's all in the past. I've learned from watching King over the past few days that he is the best in the business."

"The association will bring more world championships to Britain for the younger fighters, and do British boxing good."



Anna Kournikova of Russia hits a return during her first round match against Dominique van Roost of Belgium at the European Championships tennis tournament in Kloten. Van Roost won 6-3 6-1 (Reuters photo)

## Two more seeds out of Singapore open

SINGAPORE (R) — Two more seeds made first round exits before top seed Marcelo Rios and No. 4 seed Jan-Michael Gambill restored some order in the Singapore Open tennis tournament on Tuesday.

Following fifth-seeded Australian Andrew Ilie's exit on Monday, No. 8 seed Ramon Delgado of

Paraguay suffered a similar fate, going down 6-4 6-4 to American Justin Gimelstob.

Also unable to justify his position in the draw was seventh seed Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands, who started brightly before going down 0-6 6-3 6-4 to Denmark's Kenneth Carlsen.

In the evening session,

fourth-seeded American Jan-Michael Gambill was quick to demolish Jonathan Stark 6-1 6-2.

Stark, ranked 190, had been given a wild card as the 1996 winner of the event and also the first-round conqueror of then top seed Michael Chang the following year.

However, the day

belonged to Chilean Rios as the former World No. 1 used his power play with devastating effect to oust Canadian Sebastian Lareau 6-2 6-0.

The remaining three seeded players — Michael Chang, Goran Ivanisevic and Mikael Tillstrom — see first round action on Wednesday.

## Spurs deny Ginola-PSG link

LONDON (AFP) — London Premiership club Tottenham Hotspur insisted on Tuesday that Paris St-Germain had not made a bid to re-sign David Ginola despite new PSG coach Artur Jorge showing interest in the French winger.

Ginola was a key member of the PSG team which won the 1993 French Cup and the 1994 League title until his departure for Newcastle United at the beginning of the 1995 season.

And Jorge, the former Portugal and Switzerland boss, said: "If you told me

it was possible, I wouldn't say no. Everybody knows that he is a player I like a lot."

But a Spurs spokesman revealed: "We've had no contact with Paris St-Germain and it's too early to talk about selling players."

Meanwhile, Tottenham's players will be given just one month to prove themselves to new boss George Graham.

Graham has met his new squad individually and issued a hard-line approach, according to Norwegian

striker Steffen Iversen.

He said: "I believe the boss has spoken to every player. He stressed that everyone should have a fair chance but, if we do not convince him, then people will be out. I expect a lot of changes here."

"After this warning I intend to use my time well. I don't think I will be one of the changes," Iversen told the Daily Mail.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### French players make bright starts

ZURICH (AFP) — French players Julie Halard-Decugis and Amelie Mauresmo made bright starts at the WTA event here Monday but Germany's Anke Huber crashed at the first hurdle after failing to sustain a bright start. Halard-Decugis swept past Japan's Ai Sugiyama 7-5, 6-1 and Mauresmo put out Sylvia Plischke of Austria 4-6, 6-4, 6-1. But Huber went down 6-3, 4-6, 4-6 to Ruxandra Dragomir of Romania.

### Davenport, Hingis in Hopman Cup

PERTH (AFP) — Lindsay Davenport and her predecessor as World No. 1 Martina Hingis will both compete in the Hopman Cup mixed team event here in January, tournament director Paul McNamee said Tuesday. Davenport, who took over the number one position from her Swiss rival this week, will partner Jan-Michael Gambill in the American team, while Hingis will play with Ivo Heuberger, he said. Davenport is the U.S. Open champion, an Olympic gold medalist and a member of the U.S. Fed Cup team. The Hopman Cup, in its 11th year, will be played at Burswood Resort Casino here from January 2 to 9.

### Schumacher, Irvine check tyres

SCARPERIA (AFP) — Michael Schumacher and Eddie Irvine began putting the Ferraris through their paces here on Tuesday, in a bid to find the right tyres for this season's final grand prix in Japan. Schumacher trails Finn Mika Hakkinen by four points in the drivers' championship

before the all-important race at Suzuka on November 1. The two Ferrari men completed just one test lap here at the Mugello circuit on Tuesday morning before returning to the pits. The tyre session was set to last for the rest of the day.

### Brazil's set to join Werder Bremen

BONN (R) — Brazilian striker Ailton was set to join Germany's Werder Bremen after successfully passing a medical examination on Tuesday. The 25-year-old, previously with Mexican side Tigres Monterrey, was expected to sign a contract on Thursday, a spokesman for the first division club said. Bremen, making their worst Bundesliga start in 30 years, are 17th in the 18-strong table after seven games.

### Luxembourg steps up security

LUXEMBOURG (AFP) — The Luxembourg authorities have called up a thousand policemen for the Euro 2000 Group 5 qualifier with England here on Wednesday to prevent any repetition of the violence from their previous two meetings in 1977 and 1983. The police will also be backed up by a special force of English policemen, who will be able to identify known hooligans, while the security forces have also installed video cameras inside the Josy Barthel stadium and strengthened their border controls ahead of the arrival of an expected 5,000 English fans. "Most of the English fans are well-behaved, but we have to be on the lookout for the 30-40 of them whose only interest is to cause trouble," said a Luxembourg Football Federation spokesman.

TODAY AT	PHILADELPHIA '1'	PHILADELPHIA '2'	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	Hisham Yousif Theatre
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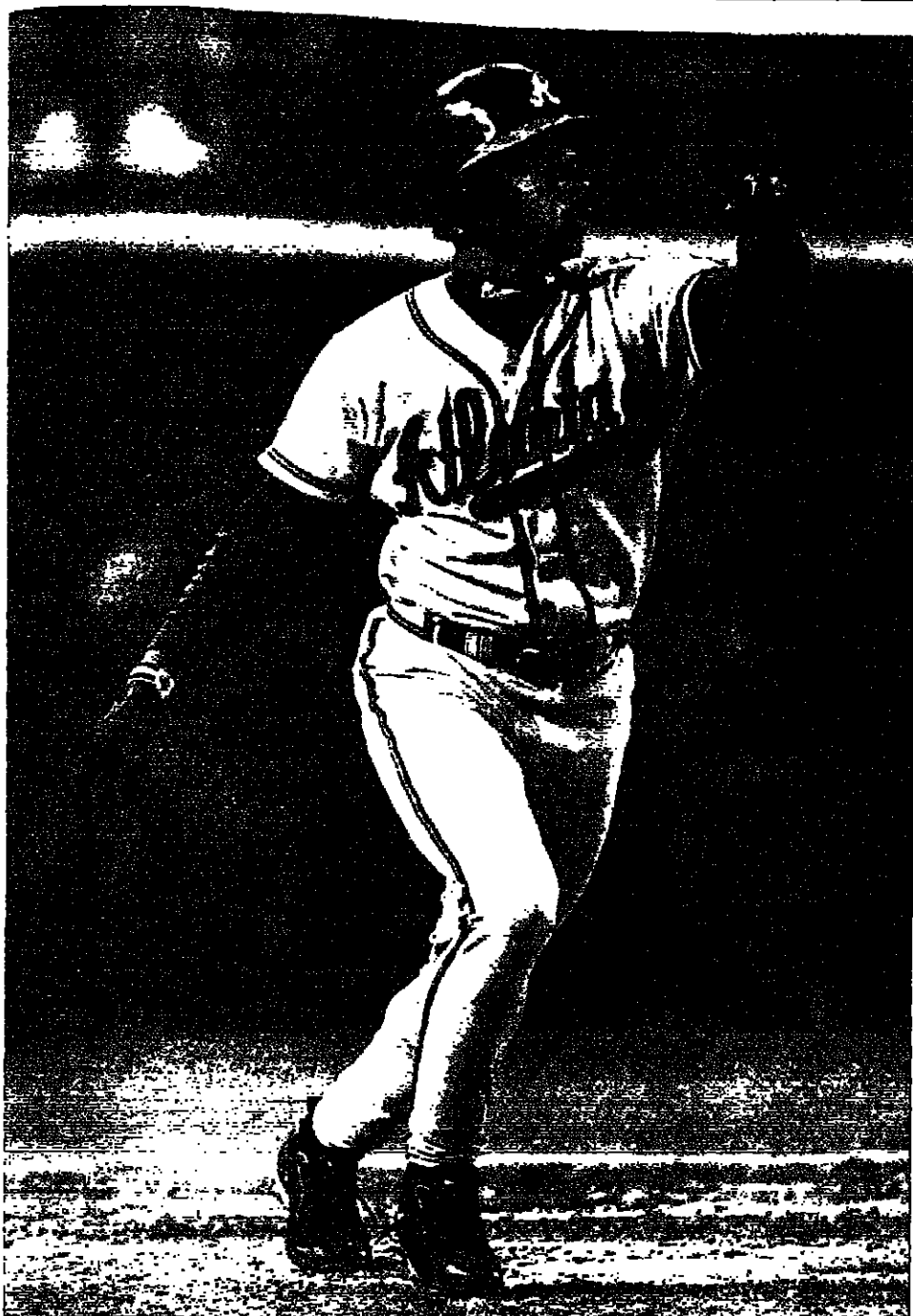
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# Sports



Atlanta Braves Michael Tucker hits a three-run eighth inning home run off San Diego Padres pitcher Kevin Brown in Game 5 of the NLCS. The hit gave the Braves the lead in the game, as the Padres lead the series 3-1 (Reuters photo)

## Braves rally to stay alive in NLCS

SAN DIEGO, California (AFP) — The Atlanta Braves turned a five-run eighth inning into a 7-6 victory over San Diego here Monday to stay alive in the National League Championship Series.

Michael Tucker slammed a three-run home run with one out in the eighth off Padres ace Kevin Brown, who was all but unhittable in three postseason starts this year.

Brown came on in the seventh, making only his third career appearance in relief, and he could still start game seven if it's needed.

The Braves, who two days earlier were staring a humiliating four-game sweep squarely in the face, became

the first team to rally from an 0-3 deficit and force a sixth game in a best-of-seven postseason series.

Games six and possibly seven will be in Atlanta starting on Tuesday.

Tucker's blast capped a five RBI performance and gave the Braves a 7-4 lead.

Donne Wall relieved Brown and walked Atlanta pitcher John Rocker. He struck out Ozzie Guillen before surrendering an RBI double to Tony Graffanino. Graffanino lined to left center, reached third on the throw and scored on shortstop Chris Gomez' wild throw.

The Padres couldn't respond in the bottom of the inning, but in the ninth pinch hitter Greg Myers

slammed a two-run home run off Braves closer Kerry Ligtenberg to move within one run of forcing extra innings.

The Braves then sent Greg Maddux, the losing pitcher in game three, to the mound and he retired three of four batters he faced. It was his first appearance in relief in 11 years and he earned his first career save.

For awhile it looked like the Padres would again get the better of one of Atlanta's vaunted aces. John Smoltz, the 1996 Cy Young Award winner, gave up two two-run home runs, to Ken Caminiti in the first inning and John Vander Wal in the sixth as the Padres took a 4-2 lead.

## Zidane wants to follow Del Piero

MILAN (AFP) — Juventus' struggling star Zinedine Zidane sent the home fans a message on Tuesday — "if you think Alessandro Del Piero is back to his best, just watch me."

Juventus have been struggling in the Serie A and the European Champions League because of Del Piero and Zidane's poor form.

But with Del Piero scoring both goals in Italy's Euro 2000 qualifier win over Switzerland last weekend, the Frenchman believes it's time for his own problems to come to an end.

In the four Serie A matches so far, he has turned in two dismal performances, rated five out of ten by critics, missed one through injury and limped off after 24 minutes in other.

"I'm happy for Alessandro because he's been going through a very difficult time," Zidane told the Italian press. "I've heard that they were great goals."

"I'm sure that he will be doing great things again for Juventus, but now that he's made a comeback in fine style, I want to do the same."

"I know full well that I haven't done much for Juventus since the start of the season. And let's not even talk about the last game against Fiorentina, it wasn't 'Zizou' playing, or even his shadow. "Perhaps someone called Hector Zidane, I don't know... It's not something I'm happy about, but I'm not discouraged by it either. I'm working hard and the Zidane of a few months ago will soon be back for all to see."

The French World Cup hero believes the first step has already been taken in last weekend's 3-2 win over Russia.

"I wasn't at 100 percent, and not even at 70 percent, but I did some interesting things and I enjoyed myself," he said. "I suffered a lot physically as well, but that's only because I'm behind in my preparation."

Zidane is now training with the rest of the French squad for Wednesday's Euro 2000 qualifier against Andorra. They play in the St Denis stadium where France lifted soccer's most coveted trophy on July 12 after Zidane floored Brazil with two first-half goals.

"I just need to get back to my World Cup form as soon as possible," he said.

"Playing for France is something I enjoy and it's important to me, but I don't need to put on a blue shirt to start improving... it's the daily training with Juventus that counts."

## 5th International Horse Jumping Championship starts today

By Alia Shukri Hamzeh

AMMAN — Jordan's 5th International Horse Jumping Championship will commence Wednesday at the Arabian Horse Club with five countries taking part in the three-day event.

Hani Bisharat, captain of Jordan's national team, told the Jordan Times Tuesday that the championship falls under Jordan's preparations for the Pan-Arab Games to be held in Amman in 1999.

Bisharat said the countries participating are Syria, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates, New Zealand and Jordan, adding that Saudi Arabia and Bahrain were also expected to take part in the tournament held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Alia.

"I wish the Jordanian team success as they will face tough competition," he added.

Bisharat said the championship's opening ceremony which includes a horse parade will take place at noon extending an open invitation for fans of the sport to attend.

"The competition starts soon after the opening ceremony with two events," he said, adding that all rounds in the championship carry names of eight out of more than 25 sponsoring companies.

The first jumping competition on Wednesday entitled "Crown Hotel competition" will have one round against the clock with 115-centimetre high hurdles.

The second will have one round against the clock with 130-centimetre high hurdles.

On Thursday, there will be three competitions. The first will focus on collecting accumulative points for jockeys jumping ten hurdles, each 115 centimetres high. The points achieved or deducted in this round are double.

The second competition has a unified penalty for hurdle dropping and the hurdles are 120-centimetres high.

The third competition includes one round against the clock and a jump-off round with 130-centimetre high hurdles.

Friday will also host three competitions. The first against the clock and a jump-off round with 120-centimetres

high hurdles.

That will be followed by one round against the clock and two jump-off rounds with 130-centimetre high hurdles.

The final or the Grand Prix competition is one round (not against the clock) with 140 centimetres high hurdles.

Bisharat said that the closing ceremony will be held at the Crown Hotel where trophies and prizes will be distributed to the winners.

He added that there will be a lottery on tickets for the audience on a Mitsubishi Lancer donated by the agent.

The championship is considered the biggest held in Jordan this year and is expected to host many jockeys from neighbouring Arab countries.

Ibrahim Bisharat, director of the Arabian Horse Club said earlier that all arrangements and technical preparations for the tournament had been concluded, including receiving riders and horses, and providing veterinary checks for the horses.

## Brunell sparks unbeaten Jaguars over Miami

JACKSONVILLE (AFP) — Mark Brunell completed 12 of 18 passes for 213 yards and tossed a 36-yard touchdown to Keenan McCardell with 2:36 to play as unbeaten Jacksonville edged Miami 28-21 here Monday.

By winning American football bragging rights of Florida, the Jaguars rose to 5-0, joining Denver (6-0) and Minnesota (5-0) as the only unbeaten in the National Football League.

After Orlando Mare missed a 54-yard field goal for Miami, Brunell fired a

bomb down the right sideline with the game tied, 21-21. McCardell ran under it and stumbled into the end zone for the go-ahead score, just over nine minutes after catching a game-tying 23-yard touchdown from Brunell.

Dan Marino got back the ball with 2:24 to go at his own 34-yard line and drove the Dolphins to the Jacksonville 38. But Jaguars defensive end Tony Brackens, came through with the decisive blow when he stripped Marino and pounced on the loose ball with

1:51 to play.

Marino had one final chance with 49 seconds remaining, but was pinned on the 8-yard line and was unable to significantly move the offense. Marino completed 30-of-49 passes for 323 yards and two touchdowns.

Rookie Fred Taylor staked Jacksonville to a 14-0 lead with a pair of a touchdown runs in the first half, including a 77-yarder on the first play from scrimmage.

## Sampras continues fight to stay No. 1

VIENNA (AFP) — Pete Sampras, who is desperately trying to fend off the late season challenge of Pat Rafter and Marcelo Rios and become the first player ever to top the rankings for a sixth consecutive year, made a successful start at the ATP tournament here on Monday when he beat qualifier Jan Krosiak of Slovakia in straight-sets.

Sampras, who applied for a wild-card to play in Vienna following his shock early elimination to Wayne Ferreira of South Africa in Basel last week, scored a 6-2, 7-5 victory.

In Monday's rankings, the 27-year-old Sampras was credited with 4,015 points — Rafter had 3,575 and Rios 3,435.

Although he never looked like losing, Sampras was

clearly match-rusty against Krosiak and he admitted: "If I want to stay at the top then I have to play more. I'm tired both mentally and physically. The years take their toll on the circuit."

His match on Monday was only his second since his loss to Rafter in the semi-finals of the U.S. Open.

Seven of the world's top-ten players are competing in Vienna and in Monday's other matches Swede's Thomas Enqvist, Jonas Bjorkman and Magnus Norman all claimed wins.

Enqvist saw off home player Wolfgang Schranz of Austria 4-6, 6-3, 6-2. Bjorkman beat Germany's David Prinosil 6-4, 7-6 (7/1) and Norman beat Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic 7-5, 6-4.

Frenchman Cedric Pioline was another winner. He defeated Australian Richard Fromberg 6-3, 7-6 (9/7).

## ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR

The Ministry of Labour announces that its Expatriate Labourers Department, located in Jabal Hussein, Amman, opposite the Comprehensive School, is ready to receive applications from employers and their designated delegates for work permits for expatriate workers, in accordance with the following schedule:

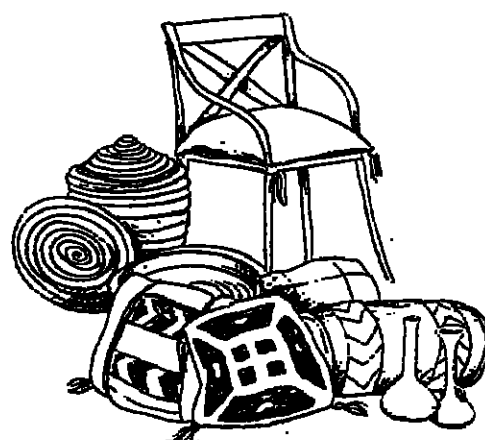
1. Saturday and Sunday of each week will be set aside for institutions where the number of work permits exceeds 10.
2. Monday and Tuesday will be set aside for regional offices employing Arab and foreign workers, as well as house maids.
3. Wednesday and Thursday will be set aside for other institutions and employers.
4. Labour and Employment Departments in other governorates of the Kingdom and at Amman Industrial Estate in Sahab will receive applications for work permits throughout the week.

Following are the required documents for obtaining work permits:

1. Copy of the Trade licence, effective throughout 1998.
2. Copy of the expatriate worker's passport, containing basic personal data about the worker.
3. Two photographs of the worker.
4. Medical Certificate issued by any Ministry of Health medical centre for the worker, who is employed for the first time.

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An International School which is an Associate Member of the CHOUFIAT / SABIS SCHOOL NETWORK

is seeking a person with the following qualifications:

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Interested candidates must send their C.V.'s before October 18th to Fax # 5858111 (Should indicate ref. KSA # 98/131/1911)

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## Syria has closed down separatist Turkish Kurds camps — Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — Syria appears to have closed down camps of the separatist Turkish Kurds movement and was no longer sheltering its leader, Turkish Defence Minister Ismet Sezgin said Tuesday.

The statement is further proof of the easing of tension between the two countries that has threatened to escalate into a military conflict.

Turkey had accused Syria of providing logistical support to the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) and of sheltering its leader Abdullah Ocalan either in Syria proper or in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa region of

Lebanon.

"We believe the leader of the PKK is no longer in Syria," said Sezgin Tuesday.

"This impression comes from meetings we have had with the Egyptian and Iranian foreign ministers (Amr Musa and Karmal Kharazi respectively). But we still need confirmation of this for ourselves," added Sezgin.

He did not say where Ocalan was.

"We also believe Syria has closed down camps belonging to the terrorists on its soil or on territory under its control," said Sezgin.

Turkey always refers to

the PKK as terrorists.

"Security committees will be created to double-check these impressions," said Sezgin.

Kharazi travelled to Ankara Friday, followed by Musa on Monday, in an attempt to defuse the mounting crisis between Turkey and Syria.

Musa said in a message to the Turkish authorities Monday that Syria was prepared to hold talks with Turkey on possible measures to be taken against the PKK, according to diplomatic sources quoted by the NTV television news channel.

Ankara received Musa's

message with "interest" but Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem demanded "actions, not words".

The row boiled up at the beginning of October and Turkey went so far as to threaten Syria with military reprisals if it failed to heed its warnings.

Syria had long denied supporting the PKK.

The PKK has been fighting an armed rebellion to create an independent Kurdish state in the southern Turkey, which is Kurdish-dominated. It is generally accepted that the rebellion has cost nearly 31,000 lives.

## 'Taleban release 10 Iranian truck drivers'

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghanistan's Taleban Islamic movement, which is locked in a tense standoff with Iran, released 10 Iranians on Tuesday, an Afghan news agency said.

The Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) quoted a Taleban spokesman as saying from the southern Afghan city of Kandahar that the Iranians had been released on the orders of the militia's supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar.

He said the prisoners were being flown out on Tuesday.

Their immediate destination was not known.

The spokesman said the 10 Iranians were part of a group of Iranian truck drivers arrested in August in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-e-Sharif when it was captured by the militia.

The prisoners, whose release Omar ordered on Sunday "in honour" of a Palestinian delegation visiting Kandahar, would fly on a plane of the International Committee of the Red Cross, he said.

Last week the Taleban released and repatriated five Iranian traders who had been taken captive by the militia 15 months ago in western Afghanistan, as a result of efforts by Iran's ambassador to Saudi Arabia and a Saudi-based Afghan citizen.

Tuesday's release comes a day ahead of an expected visit to Kandahar of the U.N. peace envoy for Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, as part of his mission to try to ease tension between Iran and the Taleban militia.

Ibrahim is likely to meet Omar on Wednesday to discuss peace in Afghanistan and border tensions between the militia and Iran, which has massed a huge army on its Afghan border.

Ibrahim met Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad on Monday and given assurances that the Pakistan government would fly on a plane of the International Committee of the Red Cross, he said.

## Iraq puts off action on cooperation with inspectors

BAGHDAD (AP) — President Saddam Hussein and his top advisers decided Tuesday to delay a decision on resuming cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

INA said the decision came at a meeting chaired by Saddam of the Revolutionary Command Council and the regional command of the Baath Party.

The Iraqi leaders heard a report from Tariq Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister, who returned to Baghdad after a series of meetings in New York with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan.

"It was decided during the meeting to resume the discussion of these issues in a forthcoming meeting," INA said. It did not say when the next meeting would be.

The meeting here came as top U.N. weapons inspectors briefed the U.N. Security Council on the stalled arms inspections and U.N. efforts to determine whether Iraq loaded VX nerve gas into missile warheads.

Iraq and the United Nations have been at odds over U.N. weapons inspections, which were mandated by U.N. resolutions following the 1991 Gulf war, which ended Iraq's seven-

month occupation of Kuwait.

Iraq on Aug. 5 announced that it was suspending cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors. The U.N. Security Council retaliated by cancelling its regular reviews of the trade sanctions.

The sanctions limit Iraq's sale of oil, its economic mainstay. The Security Council has said they cannot be lifted until the inspectors certify that Iraq has eliminated its weapons of mass destruction.

The Iraqi agency said that at Tuesday's meeting, Saddam and his aides discussed "the flagrant American interference during the latest period in Iraq's domestic affairs."

The leadership was particularly angry at a decision by the U.S. Congress to channel up to \$97 million in military aid to opposition groups seeking to topple the Baghdad government, INA said.

The legislation also provides \$2 million to fund Radio Free Iraq to broadcast anti-government propaganda.

The leadership termed as "flagrant interference" in its national sovereignty meetings by U.S. officials with Kurdish leaders. The talks were aimed at ending infighting among the Kurds, who have set up a semi-autonomous region in northern Iraq.



An Iraqi woman sits near an empty crib as she heads a women demonstration in Baghdad on Tuesday to protest against the continued U.N. sanctions imposed on the country since 1990 (AFP photo)

## 25,000 Iraqi women stage protest against sanctions

BAGHDAD (AP) — About 25,000 Iraqi women marched through the streets Tuesday in a government-organised demonstration to express anger at U.N. trade sanctions.

It was the largest women's protest in Baghdad since the sanctions were imposed on Iraq in 1990 to punish it for invading Kuwait.

The women carried anti-American placards and shouted slogans against the U.S. government. "America is the enemy of God," they screamed as they approached the offices of the U.N. Development Programme

in Baghdad where the organisers handed a letter of protest.

Most of the women were clothed in black veils and many slapped their faces and beat their breasts at the sight of pick-up cars carrying symbolic coffins of children.

Authorities say thousands of children have died because of medicine shortages caused by the sanctions.

Rifa Marouf, a doctor at a Baghdad children's hospital, said about 200 babies die every day in her hospital. "Our children are dying. They are innocent and no one cares," she said.

Hana Mahmoud said she joined the demonstration to tell the world that Iraqi children 'cannot be held responsible for what happened.'

"They are not guilty. They have done nothing but they bear the brunt of sanctions," she said.

Iraq has often used such processions to win world sympathy and support for the lifting of sanctions.

The sanctions on Iraq will only be lifted when U.N. weapons inspectors testify that Baghdad has eliminated its weapons of mass destruction.



Baby albatross too fat to fly

WELLINGTON (AFP) — One real fat chick is causing amusement at the world's only mainland royal albatross colony. The fellow hatched last year but has found the good life of rum, dad and endless free food too much and now cannot fly. He should have left Dunedin's Tairāroa Head in southern New Zealand about mid-September, along with the rest of the chicks, but is still sitting on the ground uselessly flapping his wings. The Department of Conservation said the chick, which had weighed as much as 13 kilograms, has now slimmed down to nine kilograms. Department staff say he may make it off the ground if there is the right wind soon.

## Food for thought

BOSTON (AP) — It's a menu to whet the appetite of any seafood connoisseur: Crab cakes, grilled yellowfin tuna, savory clam chowder and breaded haddock. There's just one problem for some customers: It's all being served at Boston's New England Aquarium. The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, which wants the aquarium to adopt a vegetarian menu with such soybean items as "Not-Dogs" and "Tu-No," plans a protest this week at the aquarium. "How can you display fish that are so beautiful, then turn around and eat them?" said Christine Dorchak, an animal rights activist in Boston. "We don't serve our exhibits," said Sue Knapp, a spokeswoman for the aquarium, which sits on the edge of Boston Harbor. "We want to foster an appreciation for the aquatic world. Eating seafood can be a part of that."

## Sex change fish cause farmers headaches

SYDNEY (AFP) — Male barramundi are letting down the side by changing into females well before they should. This distressing problem has Australian fish farmers in a bind. No one knows just why the barramundi are opting out of their breeding responsibilities. "We choose the best males as breeders," barramundi farmer Chris Phillips said in a statement Tuesday. "Then they go and turn into big girls on us." The farmers have called in scientists from the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Aquaculture to help find the problem. CRC aquaculture specialist Trevor Anderson said all barramundi were born as males. "Normally they change to females when they are about six years old. But young males selected to be breeding stock at the farms are changing prematurely when they are only two years old," he said.

## Travel with sheep is cheap

OBAN (AP) — Some residents of the Hebridean Islands off the west coast of Scotland have found the secret of cheap vacations — travel with sheep. Ever since the ferry company Calsonic MacBrayne introduced discounted fares for farmers taking their livestock to market, some vacationers crossing to the mainland have packed sheep along with their sun lotion and passports. The company says. Throughout the summer, members of the ferry staff say they were puzzled by the number of sheep travelling in cars filled with bulging suitcases. After monitoring a succession of farmers who returned weeks later with a suitcase and a woolly tale of beasts that couldn't be sold at market, the ferry company realised it had stumbled on a scam that saved islanders (\$170) a journey.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Arafat, Peres open Norwegian centre

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres inaugurated a cultural centre here Tuesday named after a former Norwegian mediator of Israeli-Palestinian peace agreements. The centre was funded by the Norwegian government in memory of Johan Jorgen Holst who, as Norwegian foreign minister, was one of the mediators of the 1993 Oslo agreement which was completed after secret negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians in Norway. The Holst centre will have an activity centre for children and youth with a theatre, library, music rooms, kindergartens, a computer training centre, a gym and two cafeterias.

### Israel eases clampdown on territories

HEBRON (AFP) — Israel's army lifted on Tuesday a two-week-old curfew on Palestinians living in the Israeli-controlled sector of Hebron and eased travel restrictions on residents of the rest of the occupied territories. Nearly 30,000 Palestinians with permits to work in Israel were also allowed to leave the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as of dawn following a 10-day-long total blockade of the Palestinian territories, an army spokesman said. Those allowed into Israel include 21,000 labourers and 8,000 merchants.

### Cohen meets with King Fahd

RIYADH (AP) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen met Tuesday with King Fahd during the last leg of a Gulf tour aimed at convincing allies to finance a regional missile defence system. During the meeting, the Saudi monarch briefed Cohen on efforts by the kingdom to try to resolve the dispute between Turkey and Syria over Kurdish guerrillas, diplomats said. The two also discussed the tension between Iran and Afghanistan. Cohen also met with the defence minister, Prince Sultan. Earlier, he toured the Prince Sultan Air Base south of Riyadh to visit some 5,000 U.S. troops stationed there.

### Bahrain: Qatari poll includes disputed area

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain protested on Tuesday against a decision by Qatar to include areas disputed by the Gulf Arab neighbours in a forthcoming municipal election. A foreign ministry spokesman quoted by Bahrain's official Gulf News Agency (GNA) said: "The recent decision by the ministry of the interior of the brotherly state of Qatar to include the Zubarah region and the Hawar islands within the electoral districts for Qatar's central municipal council constitutes a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of the state of Bahrain." In Doha, a senior Qatari official confirmed the areas were included in its polling districts. But he rejected the Bahraini complaint, saying the town of Zubarah and the Hawar islands belonged to Qatar.

### Iraq: Turkey threatening flow of rivers

BAGHDAD (R) — A senior Iraqi official was quoted as saying on Tuesday that Turkey was threatening the quality and flow of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers by building dams for power and irrigation. Iraq's Irrigation Minister Mahmoud Diyab Al Ahmad accused Turkey of blocking an agreement on sharing the waters of the two rivers with Iraq and Syria. "The [dam] project... which Turkey has built most of, is harmful to Iraq because it will affect the flow of water as well as its quality," Ahmad told the weekly newspaper Al Itihad.

## Lebanon parliament votes amendment to pave way for Lahoud

BEIRUT (AFP) — The Lebanese parliament approved a constitutional amendment Tuesday which would allow army chief Emile Lahoud to assume the presidency in a house vote that officials said will be held Thursday.

"This is an historic moment in the history of our country and the road is now open for General Emile Lahoud to be elected president," Minister of Administrative Reforms Beshara Merhej, an MP, said after the session.

The overwhelmingly pro-

Syrian 128-member parliament, equally divided between Christians and Muslims, ratified the amendment by 113 votes to four. Eleven MPs were absent.

The MPs voted to amend Article 49 of the Lebanese constitution which bars state officials from becoming president within two years of leaving their posts. The amendment, which is for "one-time only and exceptionally," received cabinet approval last Thursday.

The assembly will meet for the electoral session after out-

going President Elias Hrawi promulgates the constitutional amendment adopted Tuesday, officials in House Speaker Nabih Berri's office said.

Lahoud must obtain two-thirds of the votes in the first round or an absolute majority in a following round, according to the constitution.

The general was named as Hrawi's successor following a hastily arranged summit in Damascus Monday between the Lebanese head of state and President Hafez Al Assad of Syria, the main powerbroker in

Lebanon.

Syria maintains 35,000 troops across 75 per cent of Lebanon and has dominated political life here since Hrawi became president in November 1989. His term was exceptionally extended for another three years in 1995.

Lahoud, 62, will be the first president elected in peacetime since the start of the Lebanese civil war in 1975.

Appointed army chief in November 1989, Lahoud is credited with reunifying the Lebanese army, which had

splintered into Christian and Muslim militias during the 15-year conflict.

But the selection of Lahoud at a summit in Damascus and the choice of a soldier to become president has sparked a wave of controversy in Lebanon.

Maverick MP Najah Wakim, who voted against the amendment, accused the "authorities of not respecting the constitution and the law because the amendment was introduced for the sake of one particular person."

## Egyptian women fight for right to hold religious, judicial posts

By Hassan Mekki  
Agence France Presse

CAIRO — Two women are mounting assaults on Egypt's last all-male bastions, in bids to become a mufti, the country's highest Muslim official, and a judge.

Unlike their sisters in some parts of the male-dominated Arab World, Egyptian women can become ambassadors, cabinet ministers or members of parliament, but they cannot wear a mufti's "imama or imama" (headress) or a judge's black robe.

But Suad Saleh, a theology professor at the prestigious Sunni Muslim Al Azhar University, wants to scale the walls of the country's Islamic establishment and become a mufti with the power to issue fatwas

(religious decrees).

"Nothing in the Sharia [Islamic law] says that women cannot issue fatwas," said Saleh, a 51-year-old mother of two boys and two girls who is known for her deep understanding of Muslim theology.

Like other conservative Muslims, Saleh wears a veil and does not shake the hands of male visitors. Nevertheless, she started informally issuing religious advice on matters concerning women 10 years ago.

"This summer I asked the state mufti, Sheikh Nasr Farid Wassef, for an official appointment to become his deputy for women's affairs," Saleh told AFP.

"I haven't received a reply yet, but I hope that I will be able to convince the religious authorities of my good intentions and that

sooner or later I will be able to reach my goal," she said.

Saleh believes that Islam could benefit from a female touch. "In the Middle East, women think twice before approaching a man [mufti] with intimate questions. These are the types of questions that women ask me, and if I were to become mufti I could reach women," she said.

Identifying her enemies as "conservatism and tradition," lawyer Atma Lashin is also fighting — but for a seat on the bench.

"I've been obsessed all my life with the dream of becoming a judge," the 35-year-old told AFP.

"In ancient Egypt, there were women priests and queens, and they acted as judges," she said.

"Our constitution calls

for equality between men and women, and there are no laws banning women from becoming magistrates," she said.

In 1996, the council of state, which rules on matters in which citizens challenge the state, said it was "incompetent" to issue a verdict concerning her request to become judge.

Lashin took her case to the cassation court in a last resort to get a favourable verdict, and a hearing has been set for Nov. 3.

"I will not give up. Even if the court rules against me I will encourage other women lawyers to follow suit," she said.

Lashin said she was buoyed in her struggle by Suzanne Mubarak, the wife of President Hosni Mubarak, who earlier this year said she was in favour

of women becoming judges.

In the meantime, the government is keeping a low profile on the quests of Lashin and Saleh.

"The authorities are afraid of fanning the indignation of Islamists who are hostile to any effort aimed at promoting women's rights," said lawyer Tahani Al Gabali.

Summing up the position of Islamists, Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Mamun Al Hudeiby, said: "We must not forget that women have a key duty: to take care of their homes and their children."

"The Sharia does not ban women from becoming judges or muftis although there is no need for a woman to become officially in charge of issuing fatwas," he said.